

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Caterpillar strike: big stakes for labor

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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U.S. hands off Iraq!

Workers, farmers, and youth have a responsibility to demand that Washington get its troops out of the Persian Gulf, end its military aggression against Iraq, and lift the sanctions that are devastating the working people of that country. Now is the time to organize public protests to press these demands.

Editorial

Washington's recent series of actions abroad make clear that Bill Clinton is a war

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Clinton launches war moves in Persian Gulf

BY SARA LOBMAN

With almost unanimous bipartisan support, U.S. president Bill Clinton has launched a mammoth military buildup in the Persian Gulf in preparation for a possible military attack on Iraq.

In a matter of days, tens of thousands of U.S. troops have poured into the region, along with hundreds of bombers and other war matériel. "We will not allow [Iraqi president] Saddam Hussein to defy the will of the United States and the international community," Clinton declared in an October 10 speech to justify the rapidly accelerating war moves. He said that the purpose of the U.S. actions was to "preserve stability in the Persian Gulf in the face of" the Iraqi government's decision to move some 70,000 troops to the Kuwait border. Iraqi troops began withdrawing from the border area October 11.

Washington's new military moves against Iraq come as thousands of U.S. troops occupy the Caribbean country of Haiti. In the last two months, the Clinton



USS Washington, part of U.S. armada sent to Persian Gulf.

administration has also stepped up its provocations and attacks on Cuba, tightening restrictions on travel to the island and creating an explosive situation with the detention of 30,000 Cuban emigrants at its naval base in Guantánamo, Cuba.

At the October 10 press conference, Clinton bragged about the success of the U.S. invasion of Haiti, pointing to it to justify the new military moves against Iraq. "The strength of America's foreign policy stands on the steadfastness of our commitments," he said. "Tonight, [in Iraq] as in Haiti, American troops, with our coalition partners, are the guarantors of that commitment, the power behind our diplomacy."

The military buildup in the Gulf has expanded quickly from the initial October 8 announcement by the Pentagon that 4,000 U.S. troops were headed for Kuwait. Just

three days later, Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reported there were some 19,000 soldiers in the area and another 44,500 being deployed. An additional 156,000 U.S. troops have been placed on alert. Washington has 200 combat aircraft in the waters off Kuwait and Iraq with an additional 460 either on their way or on alert. Fifty-two aircraft from other countries have also joined the U.S. fleet in the Gulf.

The warplanes include fighter jets equipped with antitank missiles, guns with armor-piercing shells, B-52 bombers, and jets with laser-guided bombs. At least a dozen stealth fighters, radar-evading jets used by the U.S. military to hit civilian targets in Baghdad during the 1991 Gulf war, have also been deployed.

Washington is seeking to press Baghdad

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Anti-abortion rights terrorist convicted

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

MIAMI — A federal jury convicted anti-abortion killer Paul Hill October 5 for the murder of Dr. John Britton and escort James Barrett, and for wounding Barrett's wife June outside a Pensacola, Florida, abortion clinic.

Hill was convicted on three counts of interfering with and injuring those involved

in the delivery of reproductive services and one count of using a firearm in committing a crime.

The charges were the first ones brought under the four-month-old federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) law. Hill could get life in prison when he is sentenced December 9. He is set to be tried on Jan. 30, 1995, on state charges of murder

and attempted murder.

"This conviction sends a clear message to the anti-abortion terrorists here in our community and waiting in the wings that Pensacola is not their promised land," said Chicky Demarais, co-president of the Escambia County National Organization for Women (NOW). "The citizens of Pensacola have spoken through the jury that the anti-abortion terrorists' lawlessness and the murder of physicians and NOW volunteer escorts will not be tolerated."

Battlefield over abortion rights

Pensacola has become a battlefield over the issues of abortion rights and clinic violence. For nearly 10 years clinics, doctors, volunteer escorts, and abortion rights activists have faced bombings, vandalism, burglaries, phony malpractice suits, threats, and harassment.

Over the last two years, right-wing opponents of abortion rights in Pensacola have turned more violent. In March 1993, Dr. David Gunn was shot and killed at the city's other clinic. Michael Griffin was convicted and sentenced to life in prison on state murder charges in that case.

Paul Hill regularly picketed The Ladies Center clinic with a sign reading "Execute Murderers, Abortionists, and Accessories." On July 29 Hill made good on his threats.

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Haiti military leader resigns, U.S. troops keep firm grip

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

With Haiti under the firm grip of the U.S. military occupation forces, Gen. Raoul Cédras stepped down as commander in chief of the country's armed forces October 10, paving the way for the expected return of exiled president Jean-Bertrand Aristide under Washington's sponsorship five days later.

A cordon of soldiers from the 20,000 U.S. troops stationed in Haiti supervised a brief ceremony at the military headquarters in Port-au-Prince where Cédras resigned.

Clinton's invasion has enjoyed bipartisan support, despite tactical squabbles over how long the U.S. troops should remain in Haiti. Democratic Party figures like Jesse Jackson and Randall Robinson, enthusiastic supporters of the U.S. invasion, said they would like to accompany Aristide on his flight back from his exile headquarters in Washington, D.C., to Haiti.

Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter brokered an agreement with Haitian military leaders prior to the September 19 invasion, mandating Cédras and other officers to step down by October 15. Cédras's top aide, Brig. Gen. Philippe Biamby, also resigned October 10. Both men went into exile in Panama, where U.S. troops invaded and installed a government in 1989. Cédras formally relinquished

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Unionists speak out in defense of framed worker

BY BILL KALMAN

DES MOINES, Iowa—"There have been times during our 16-month fight after being locked out by the A.E. Staley Company that I have gotten discouraged," Frank Travis told participants at a meeting in support of imprisoned political and union activist Mark Curtis on October 8. "When I heard about the fight of Mark Curtis against his frame-up, and thought about the movement that was reaching out to win support for him, I was inspired."

Travis is a "road warrior," that is, a worker who travels around the country for his union, United Paperworkers International Union Local 7837 in Decatur, Illinois, speaking about their struggle.

"I was convinced that what Mark Curtis and his supporters were doing was important for me and my union," Travis told the audience of 75 people. "I became a partisan of the Curtis defense fight. And I was inspired to get even more active in the fight against A.E. Staley. It is time to let our brother go! An injury to one is truly an injury to all."

Curtis was arrested and beaten by Des Moines police in 1988 while participating in a public campaign in defense of 17 immigrant coworkers at the Swift/Monfort Meatpacking Company who had been seized in an immigration raid on the plant. He was framed on charges of rape and bur-

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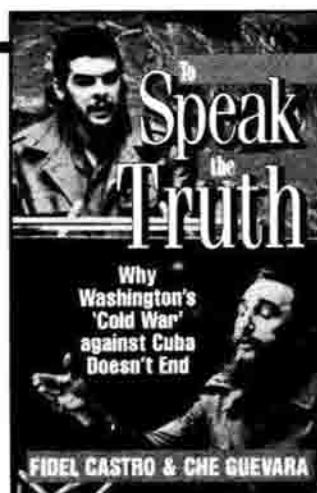
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Protest U.S. embargo of Cuba November 12—pages 9, 14

Nigerians resist gas price hike

Thousands of Nigerian workers walked to work October 5 to avoid a government-imposed gasoline price hike of more than 300 percent. Gas stations were closed for two days after fuel costs jumped to nearly five times the subsidized price on October 3. Hundreds of cops surrounded government buildings, bus terminals, and other facilities in preparation for quelling any protests. Oil workers recently ended a strike against the widely hated military regime.

The International Monetary Fund has pressured Nigeria, a major oil producer, to increase its domestic fuel prices, which are subsidized and among the cheapest in the world. Food prices and bus fares have shot up 200 percent, in a devastating blow to the living standards of working people.

Beijing resists GATT terms

The Chinese government is insisting that it be readmitted to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) as a "developing nation," which would give it certain trade protections. The U.S. government and other imperialist powers are demanding China be classified as "developed," and are insisting that the country's agricultural markets and services sector be opened further.

China, a founding member of GATT, withdrew in 1950 following the 1949 revolution that overthrew capitalism. Beijing applied to rejoin in 1986, but negotiations were delayed in the midst of political and trade disputes with Washington.

Privatization of state factories bogs down in Hungary

The Hungarian government has fired eight board members of the state holding company that organizes the privatization of state-owned companies. The state holding company was set up to manage 160 companies in which the state would sell major shares while retaining majority ownership. The government said the move was made to speed privatization and restore confidence in a process that has been riddled with corruption scandals. Capitalist investors have complained about bureau-



Striking lawyers working for Legal Aid Society marched to City Hall in New York October 3 to demand a pay raise. They returned to work after Mayor Rudolph Giuliani threatened to fire them as part of new attacks on city workers. The mayor later announced plans to lay off 8,500 city employees.

cratic delays in privatization negotiations.

Russian currency drops again

The Russian ruble plunged October 5 to a record low of 2,808 to the U.S. dollar, a drop of 5.2 percent from the previous day. The ruble has slid 27 percent against the dollar over the past month. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, international traders said that the ruble is overvalued against the dollar and has not kept pace with Russia's inflation rate, which jumped to almost 8 percent in September. Working people are already reeling from the effects of the deteriorating economy.

Azerbaijan regime defeats coup

Azerbaijan's President Gaidar Aliyev announced October 5 that a coup attempt against him was thwarted, ending days of tension that endangered a \$7-billion oil

agreement with capitalist investors. The pact would break a long-held monopoly on oil transport routes by Moscow, which has refused to recognize the agreement.

Government officials announced that troops had reclaimed the airport and other buildings in the city of Gyandzha, almost 200 miles northwest of Baku, the capital. Gyandzha is the base of the prime minister, Suret Guseinov, who has been accused of organizing the coup attempt. Guseinov ousted Azerbaijan's previous president, who initiated the original plans for the oil deal.

Death rates rise in E. Europe

A report published by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) September 6 said the attempts at capitalist market reforms have made working people in Eastern and Central Europe significantly poorer and less healthy. The report estimates that 800,000 more people have died in the region in the past five years than if the 1989 death rates had continued.

Of the nine countries surveyed, Russia, Ukraine, and southeastern Europe were the worst affected. In Russia, male life expectancy has plunged 5 years since 1989 to just 59 years. Infectious disease, malnutrition, and alcoholism are all rising. "This health crisis is unprecedented in the peacetime history of Europe in this century," said the director of UNICEF, James P. Grant.

Military chiefs fired in Serbia

Three top officers in the Serbian armed forces were removed from their posts Oc-

tober 6. The officers are reportedly advocates of maintaining the regime's previously close collaboration with right-wing Bosnian Serb forces. The previous week, the leader of the ultrarightist Serbian Radical Party, Vojislav Seselj, was jailed on charges of threatening members of parliament.

Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic has distanced himself from Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who has rejected a U.S.-backed proposal for ending the war in Bosnia. Milosevic is facing discontent in Serbia and Montenegro over increasing economic problems.

Poverty rises in United States

According to an October report by the Census Bureau, 1.3 million more people fell below the official poverty line last year, swelling the ranks of impoverished working people to 39.3 million, about 15 percent of the population. Some 33.1 percent of Blacks and 30.6 percent of Latinos now live below the poverty level.

Despite the current upturn in the business cycle, the average U.S. household lost \$2,344 in annual income from 1989 to 1993, a 7 percent drop. The Census report showed the top fifth of U.S. families took 48.2 percent of the national income while the bottom fifth received just 3.6 percent.

Clinton pushes wiretap bill

The U.S. Senate passed legislation October 7 requiring phone companies to allow wiretapping access to their electronic networks by police agencies. The U.S. House of Representatives already approved the bill, which the Clinton administration has championed.

The FBI and other federal cop agencies will only need a court-ordered warrant to obtain E-mail addresses or to wiretap other computer communications. The phone companies will receive \$500 million in government subsidies to pay for the new spy-friendly equipment.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

THE MILITANT

Defend a woman's right to choose

The trial of Paul Hill, the rightist who fatally shot a doctor and his escort at an abortion clinic in Pensacola, Florida, is the latest battleground in the fight to defend women's rights. The 'Militant' forthrightly defends the right to choose abortion. Our reporters provide accurate accounts of this crucial battle as active participants in it.



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New president of Brazil promises privatization drive

BY PAT SMITH

Fernando Cardoso, candidate of the Social Democratic Party, won Brazil's October 3 elections. With 65 percent of the ballots counted, Cardoso had 55 percent of the vote. Workers Party (PT) candidate Luis Inácio "Lula" da Silva had 26 percent of the votes cast. Rightist candidate Enéas Carneiro polled 7 percent. Cardoso was backed by both the Social Democratic Party and the right-wing Liberal Front, as well as several smaller parties.

Working people cast their ballots in the midst of a partial upturn in the business cycle. Fueled by tax breaks on profits sent overseas and an end to a ban on imports of a number of goods in the 1990s, capitalists inside and outside of Brazil have already invested billions of dollars in the country, pushing the São Paulo stock exchange index up 90 percent in dollar terms this year and making it the world's fastest growing exchange.

A growing middle class has benefited from the new prosperity of the capitalists. Large layers of workers and farmers, however, have become increasingly impoverished.

Brazil has one of the largest disparities of income between rich and poor. Some 12.3 million people out of a population of 158 million earn less than the \$71 monthly minimum wage. Even that paltry sum buys less today than it did half a century ago. More than 5 million people work without cash wages and approximately 18 million people are unemployed. Some 23 million small farmers are landless. Working people have responded to these crisis conditions with struggles on the land and in the cities. Just weeks before the elections, thousands of auto workers went on strike, shutting down Volkswagen, Ford, and Mercedes-Benz plants in the country.

Saying he will call on everyone in the country to solve the economic crisis, Cardoso said, "Brazilians should not think of stock markets, banks, businesses, but of the millions of Brazilians who want an end to inflation. Brazil has tired of demagogic measures." He took credit for the dramatic drop in inflation from 45 percent a month in June to 1 percent in September. The candidate boasted that the replacement of the cruzeiro with a new currency — a measure implemented while he was finance minister — stopped the price hikes and brought economic stability to the country.

Cardoso says he cares

Cardoso, a former college professor, portrayed himself as driven to improve the lives of Brazil's 60 million poor and to upgrade the education and health-care systems. "We are an unjust country," he stated. "The great Achilles heel of Brazil is injustice."

He promised the government would provide social welfare for working people and said, "The market cannot solve problems of poverty."

At the same time, Cardoso has vowed to sell state-owned industries, including Companhia Vale do Rio Doce, the largest state-run mining company; encourage international investment; and honor the six-month-old \$49 billion foreign debt agreement. He said Brazil's new economic strength gives the government the opportunity to be more involved in regional and international affairs. To win the permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council that Brazil's rulers are seeking will require a "very active" role in the world, the newly elected president said.

In this campaign, da Silva, the PT candidate, moved further away from the anti-imperialist and pro-socialist positions he



Some 9,000 members of the Metalworkers Union struck General Motors and other plants in São Paulo in September demanding wage increases. Workers and farmers in Brazil will carry the brunt of new government's projected austerity measures.

had openly expressed in previous years. The PT, which has a mass base in the working class, arose out of militant labor battles in the 1970s.

As recently as May, according to opinion polls, the former metalworker had been leading the race. At that time he met with bankers and officials of Bear Stearns & Co. during a trip to the United States to assure them a PT government would honor the newly-signed agreement rescheduling Brazil's debt payments and would be open to privatization of state-owned companies to encourage international investment in the country. Many working people and youth lost enthusiasm for the PT campaign as it moved further to the right.

"In 1989, I was out in the streets handing out pamphlets for Lula [da Silva], working for free," Rogerio Ferraz, a 23-year-old student, said of the Workers Party candidate's first election bid. "Now I'm at home." Claudia Moema Vieira Caldas, a 29-year-old teacher, supported da Silva in his first bid. She is sitting this election out. "The last time I spent whole days in the streets without eating," she said, recalling the enthusiasm of the 1989 campaign. "Even at the university where I study, the

political effort is weak."

Nonetheless, the ruling class was nervous about da Silva's ability to impose the kinds of brutal austerity measures and economic reforms necessary to boost Brazil's position against its capitalist competitors.

A survey of executives of Brazil's top 500 companies found that 97 percent of those who responded supported Cardoso. Capitalists in other countries are also optimistic the new president will stick to his policy of opening Brazil's markets wider to foreign investment and keep pace with other Latin American governments in imposing more belt-tightening moves and restructuring state-owned industries. Brazilian capitalists have lagged behind their neighbors in this.

Early next year, General Mills will enter the breakfast cereal market in partnership with Nestlé's Brazilian subsidiary. Rio's supermarkets already offer Budweiser, Smucker's jam, Crest toothpaste, and other commodities produced in the United States.

"We may see as much as a 35 percent jump in American exports to Brazil," said Richard Ades, director of the United States Trade Center in São Paulo.

Mandela seeks U.S. investments

BY GREG ROSENBERG

"Our political emancipation has also brought into sharp focus the urgent need to engage in struggle to secure our people's freedom from want, from hunger and from ignorance," said South African president Nelson Mandela in an October 3 address to the United Nations General Assembly. His UN appearance was part of a week-long state visit aimed at securing capital investment in South Africa.

"The road we shall have to travel to reach this destination will by no means be easy," Mandela said of the struggle to raise living conditions in South Africa. "All of us know how stubbornly racism can cling to the mind and how deeply it can infect the human soul. Where it is sustained by the racial ordering of the material world, as is the case in our country, that stubbornness can multiply a hundredfold. And yet, however hard the battle will be, we will not surrender."

Appealing for international economic support, Mandela said, "The stability of the democratic settlement itself and the possibility actually to create a nonracial and nonsexist society depend on our ability to change the material conditions of life of our people so that they not only have the vote, but they have bread and work as well."

White House promises paltry aid

During his U.S. trip, Mandela met with President Bill Clinton, addressed a joint session of Congress, and met with business figures to make the case for investment in South Africa. He also spoke to a crowd of thousands at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

While the capitalist minority enjoys vast wealth in South Africa, millions of working people are jobless, living in shacks, without enough to eat or any basic services. There are widespread protests on the land and in the factories to wipe out the racist inequalities imposed by businesses under apartheid.

During Mandela's visit to Washington,

Clinton announced the addition of \$180 million to the \$600 million already pledged in the form of loan guarantees and other assistance to countries in southern Africa. Some \$200 million of the \$780 million total package has already been committed. In addition, a \$100 million "enterprise development fund" has been established. Half the fund, earmarked for the region, will go to South Africa. Clinton also said the Peace Corps will begin functioning in South Africa next year.

The South African government has taken a number of steps to encourage capital investment from abroad. These include opening its doors to international firms for offshore oil and gas exploration, as well as ongoing negotiations with the World Bank.

On October 3, the U.S. credit rating agency Moody's gave South Africa an "investment grade" rating. Standard & Poor's, the other major agency, gave a somewhat lower rating.

Large-scale capital investment in South Africa, however, has yet to materialize. Capitalists point to the demands of millions of Black working people for equality, militant labor struggles, and political instability in the country as reasons they are wary of investment.

"The expectations are frightening. It's the biggest management job that South Africa has ever undertaken," says Roger Crawford, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in southern Africa.

There are 169 U.S. companies that have employees or direct investment in South Africa, up from 119 last year. There were 300 in 1984, before the anti-apartheid movement succeeded in winning greater sanctions against the racist regime.

"No company will make an investment based on their enthusiasm for Nelson Mandela," was the blunt comment from Daniel O'Flaherty, executive director of the United States-South Africa Business Council. "I don't think sentiment is going to drive investment in South Africa."

Even a demand for a 40-hour workweek from ANC labor minister Tito Mboweni, at

the convention of the Congress of South African Trade Unions brought squeals of protest from capitalists. "A statutory 40-hour week would cause serious harm to our industry," said Adrian du Plessis, adviser to the Chamber of Mines.

A public dispute erupted between British prime minister John Major and former prime minister Margaret Thatcher in September, while Major was on a three-day trip to South Africa. He announced some loans, and promised sports cooperation between the two countries.

Thatcher told businessmen at a British embassy gathering in Bombay that investors were afraid of violence and social unrest in South Africa. "What you are getting is people who look at the rest of Africa. They say 'Look at Rwanda, look at Somalia.' Are we going to have the same thing happening in South Africa."

"There will be a certain amount of trouble there," Thatcher predicted. "This is why people are holding back."



Johannesburg bus drivers block streets October 7 to press wage demands. Investors fear militant working class.

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Public events planned to boost Pathfinder Fund

BY PAUL MAILHOT

There are now just five weeks left to successfully complete the campaign to raise \$125,000 for the Pathfinder publishing program. With more than \$80,000 to collect in that time, supporters around the world must reach out and ask for contributions from workers, students, and political activists.

The fund meets a crucial need — to keep the writings of revolutionary and communist leaders in print. Pathfinder rallies are now being planned around the world to boost this effort.

From Atlanta, Pathfinder Fund director Derek Bracey reports that supporters are hoping to get one or two local trade union activists who have been reading Pathfinder books, and who value the lessons for union fighters these books contain, to be part of the speakers platform. "There are a couple of members of the Teamsters union who buy Pathfinder books regularly that we would like to participate in the rally," Bracey said. The unionists first came across Pathfinder books during recent Teamsters strikes.

"We've also had quite a bit of success selling *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's Cold War against Cuba Doesn't End* to activists at meetings to defend the Cuban revolution. We plan to ask them to participate in the event as well," Bracey said.

'Bolivian Diary' editor to speak

Laura Garza, who recently returned from a reporting trip to Cuba for the *Militant* newspaper, will be the featured speaker at meetings in Atlanta and Birmingham over the October 22 weekend.

Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*, will be the featured speaker at Pathfinder Fund events in Seattle and San Francisco over the November 5-6 weekend. Geoff Mirelowitz in Seattle reports that a long-

shoreman brought in a \$500 contribution to the fund and recently asked for two copies each of *Labor's Giant Step: The First Twenty Years of the CIO: 1936-1955* and *Teamster Rebellion*, which he had just sold on the job.

Organizers of the fund in San Francisco and Seattle are planning to put together speakers panels which include union and political activists along with Waters. Having working class fighters who use Pathfinder books and understand their value for today's struggles as part of the program is central to building a successful Pathfinder Fund event.

Pathfinder depends on the contributions of many supporters around the world to finance its ambitious and unique publishing program. Sales of Pathfinder books themselves account for only a part of the funds that are needed to keep Pathfinder's nearly 300 titles in print.

Time to collect pledges!

Many local areas report that pledges toward the fund already equal or surpass the adopted goals but that work has yet to begin in earnest to get those pledges collected. In Atlanta, supporters are only \$150 short of pledges to meet their \$5,000 goal. They are organizing to get another round of pledges before the October 23 rally that will make it possible to raise their goal.

Fund supporters in Philadelphia are at the top of the chart this week and are now discussing how much to raise their goal. "We have three substantial contributions that we hadn't counted on coming in so we will be able to raise our goal significantly," reports Jon Teitelbaum, organizer of the fund there.

Pathfinder supporters continue to take goals in their cities. It's not too late to add your city to the chart. To be counted in each week's figures, contributions need to arrive at Pathfinder by Tuesday at 12 noon, EDT.

\$125,000 Pathfinder Fund

	Goal	Total Paid	
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Canada			
Vancouver	\$150.00	\$20.00	13%
Toronto	\$2,000.00	\$137.00	7%
Montreal		\$120.00	
France		\$275.00	
Greece	\$100.00	\$0.00	
New Zealand	\$2,500.00		55%
Wellington	\$100.00	\$119.00	119%
Auckland	\$1,850.00	\$1,063.00	57%
Christchurch	\$550.00	\$186.00	34%
Puerto Rico		\$75.00	
Sweden	\$710.00	\$160.00	23%
United States			
Albuquerque	\$100.00	\$100.00	100%
Denver	\$100.00	\$100.00	100%
Cincinnati	\$150.00	\$100.00	67%
Portland	\$150.00	\$100.00	67%
Philadelphia	\$6,500.00	\$3,950.00	61%
Salt Lake	\$5,000.00	\$3,010.00	60%
Brooklyn	\$8,000.00	\$4,625.00	58%
Pittsburgh	\$5,500.00	\$2,846.00	52%
Miami	\$2,900.00	\$1,376.00	47%
Des Moines	\$3,000.00	\$1,385.00	46%
San Francisco	\$10,000.00	\$4,185.00	42%
Atlanta	\$5,000.00	\$2,070.00	41%
Detroit	\$5,000.00	\$2,010.00	40%
Newark	\$6,500.00	\$2,250.00	35%
Twin Cities	\$7,500.00	\$2,495.00	33%
Chicago	\$7,400.00	\$2,315.00	31%
Birmingham	\$2,800.00	\$870.00	31%
Los Angeles	\$8,500.00	\$2,480.00	29%
St. Louis	\$3,300.00	\$745.00	23%
Cleveland	\$3,500.00	\$680.00	19%
Seattle	\$5,000.00	\$965.00	19%
Washington, DC	\$3,000.00	\$526.00	18%
Greensboro	\$2,200.00	\$365.00	17%
Houston	\$3,250.00	\$310.00	10%
New York	\$7,500.00	\$270.00	4%
Boston	\$5,000.00	\$150.00	3%
Morgantown	\$2,175.00	\$25.00	1%
Edinboro	\$625.00	\$0.00	0%
Peoria	\$750.00	\$0.00	0%
TOTAL	\$125,000.00	\$42,633.00	34%

Enclosed is \$_____ I pledge ☐\$1,000 ☐\$500 ☐\$100 ☐Other_____

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Send contributions to Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014

Big stakes for labor in strike battle at Caterpillar

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

PEORIA, Illinois — Oct. 1, 1994, marked three years since United Auto Workers (UAW) members began their fight to defeat a union-busting assault by Caterpillar, Inc.

After five months on strike in 1991-1992, union officials abruptly called off the walkout when Caterpillar threatened to hire replacement workers. UAW members employed by the corporate giant went back into the plants to work under the company's so-called final offer. The goal of the "final offer" was to inflict a crushing blow to the UAW and get rid of any traces of union power on the job, leaving the way open for Caterpillar to impose whatever conditions it deemed necessary in its plants.

"We are fighting against the destruction of our union. If you can't see that part, or you don't understand what that would mean, you'd think we're crazy to be out on strike," Gary Winnett, a 46-year-old union activist from the Morton, Illinois, parts plant, said in an interview.

Winnett is among many workers who continue to resist on the shop floor along with those on the picket lines. The Morton contract contains a no-strike pledge. UAW members at this plant have not joined the walkout. Like hundreds of other union militants here, however, Winnett has been victimized. He has been fired once, indefinitely suspended twice, and suspended three other times.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) charges that since mid-1992 Caterpillar has illegally fired workers for union activities, restricted workers' rights, and violated grievance procedures.

"I tell people if you are not involved in a labor struggle, you will be. You will have casualties, you will get nailed, but you will learn how to fight. You will discover a creative side of yourself you didn't know you had," Winnett said.

The current strike began after talks between Caterpillar and the UAW collapsed June 20. That meeting was the first and only one held by the two sides since the



May rally in Peoria, Illinois, to support Caterpillar workers. Company is out to deal crippling blow to union. Workers need backing of labor movement to win their fight.

company imposed its final offer in 1992. The company provoked the strike by refusing to resolve through negotiations even one of the 92 outstanding unfair labor practice complaints. These include failure to bargain in good faith, illegal banning of union insignias, and numerous suspensions due to union activity.

Many workers see this round in the fight as part of a larger confrontation: Can Caterpillar set a precedent for the auto barons and major corporations in the steel, trucking, electrical, and other industries by breaking or significantly pushing back the UAW, a major union in the United States? "Scab-a-pillar wants to turn the UAW into a figurehead union. It is a sign of the growing tendency in this country to crush the

unions," Winnett said.

Right of union to function on job gutted

The final offer openly targets the union's ability to function on the shop floor. At the Mossville, Illinois, engine plant, 29 of 47 full-time union committeeman positions have been eliminated. Caterpillar has backed off from implementing a provision that would eliminate 156 union steward positions in the plant. But under the final offer the company can get rid of these posts at will whenever it pleases.

Caterpillar has succeeded in producing construction equipment at a lower cost in order to undercut the Japan-based Komatsu and other competitors and take more worldwide market share. Restructuring

trimmed the company's payroll by 41 percent since 1979. Caterpillar has spent \$1.8 billion in the last seven years on modernizing its U.S. plants. These steps only wetted the appetite of Caterpillar's owners for further moves to worsen working conditions and gut union rights in order to boost profit rates further.

"We intend to make maximum use of our facilities and equipment at the straight-time rate," pledged Jerry Brust, Caterpillar's chief negotiator, in June 1992. "Flextime" and "Alternative work schedules," the company's euphemisms for gutting overtime pay while extending the workday and workweek, make good on Brust's pledge. These "final offer" provisions circumvent overtime pay for work after eight hours in one day and on Saturday and Sunday, which were negotiated in the first UAW contract with the company in 1948.

Caterpillar is making gains in imposing a workweek tied to its production needs during the strike. The "flexible" workforce of strikebreakers is putting in 10-16-hour days and a seven-day workweek. Ed Sealow, a welder, reported in *Cat Action Times*, "It got nastier than hell in there. I was working eight straight hours without a break, and I couldn't put a smile on my boss's face." After a month inside the plant with no union, Sealow decided to join the UAW. "I didn't go in with the idea of joining the union," he said. "I went in a real scab."

"The guys who are crossing aren't looking down the road, they're only looking to next Friday," Curtis Harrison, 27, told the *Peoria Journal Star*. Harrison who worked at the Mapleton, Illinois, foundry for 30 days has since joined the strikers on the picket line.

Is Caterpillar winning?

Caterpillar has hired "temporary workers" with no limit to their temporary status. Trainees get \$7.00 an hour. Not all of Caterpillar's temporary workers are new hires, however. For example, a UAW

Continued on page 14

WHERE WE STAND end of week five

SOLD 38 %

SHOULD BE 50%

Spread truth on war moves

BY GREG ROSENBERG

With the Clinton administration launching new war moves against Iraq, militarily occupying Haiti, and continuing its hostile policy against Cuba, workers, farmers, and young people need the *Militant* more than ever. For those who read Spanish, the same is true of *Perspectiva Mundial*. And for indispensable political analysis of imperialism's march toward fascism and war, along with the lessons of more than 150 years of working-class politics, *New International* is essential reading.

At the halfway point of the socialist publications' international circulation drive, distributors are 12 percent behind schedule overall. Concerted efforts are needed to bridge the gap. Experience in the past few weeks shows that there is increased interest among young people and fighting workers in these periodicals that can be tapped.

Houston distributors fielded a team to Shreveport, Louisiana. At Louisiana State University, they met students who purchased six *Militant* subscriptions, and a copy of *New International* no. 7, which includes the article "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq." One student decided to help organize a speaking engagement on campus for one of the Socialist Workers candidates from Texas.

The team also sold in a military housing complex near Barksdale Air Force Base and to workers at the International Paper plant.

During a trip to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, distributors from St. Louis sold two *Militant* subscriptions, and met students who are setting up a group on campus to promote solidarity with labor struggles. The group



Supporters of the *Militant* selling the press at a Labor Day rally in Toronto.

has tentatively named itself Colleagues of Organized Labor (COOL). One COOL student organized a group of friends to pool their money to pick up an introductory *Militant* subscription. He was particularly attracted to the paper's uncompromising opposition to imperialist war abroad and coverage promoting a labor solidarity rally in Decatur, Illinois, on October 15. The students were glad to hear about the action and are making arrangements to attend.

In Ripley, West Virginia, a conference on Appalachia drew some 250 people, including two *Militant* distributors, who sold two subscriptions to the socialist news-weekly. One conference participant, from a coal mining family, said he was glad to see the newspaper's extensive coverage on the

Cuban revolution. "When a Cuban came to campus in 1963 and told me that his house, cars, and boat had been taken by the workers in the revolution, I listened," he said. "But my compassion and support was for the workers...who were fighting for their rights to control the economy. I knew that I would be on the same side as those Cuban workers."

Meanwhile, distributors from Toronto, Montreal, and Boston traveled to St. John, New Brunswick, to talk to workers on strike at the Irving Oil refinery.

The team sold 31 single copies of the paper — including six on the picket line — along with three subscriptions.

"A young student from Brooklyn College came to the Pathfinder bookstore in Brooklyn yesterday," wrote Jorge Ledesma. "He bought all nine copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*, and expressed a lot of interest in coming to the upcoming rally in Decatur to show solidarity with the workers on strike there."

The current circulation drive ends November 13. This is a crucial period to get out the truth broadly to workers and youth about the U.S. rulers' attacks on our fellow working people worldwide and at home.

We encourage readers and distributors to keep sending in reports on sales efforts. And a reminder that the deadline for receiving subscriptions at the Militant business office is Tuesday at noon, EDT.

Cuba book campaign nears goal

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The campaign to sell the Pathfinder book *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' Against Cuba Doesn't End* is within reach of its goal of 500 copies. The effort has been ex-

tended an extra week giving participants in this campaign time to make a final push and reach out broadly to workers, youth, and others. The book is a collection of speeches to the United Nations by Cuban revolutionary leaders Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara. Final sales figures can be faxed to the *Militant* until October 18 at 12:00 noon EST.

Sibyl Perkins, a member of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) in Seattle reported, "We have reached our goal of selling 25 *To Speak the Truth* books! We were at 19 books going into the evening, but a couple of us got on the phone and called up some activists and we sold another six."

'I'd like that book myself'

Kathryn Crowder, a member of the United Transportation Union, who works on the Santa Fe railroad in Richmond, California said she told a coworker that the campaign aimed to sell the book as broadly as possible. She said her coworker responded, "That's understandable with everything that's being focused on Cuba today. I'd like to get that book myself." He subsequently bought it.

Beverly Bernardo, who works at Aero Garment and is a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Vancou-

ver, British Columbia, said, "the campaign is really useful in winning young people to the politics of the Cuban revolution. We sold 11 books and 9 of those were sold with introductory *Militant* subscriptions to young people interested in Cuba. We are going to start a class series based on speeches in the book."

M.J. Rahn of Greensboro, North Carolina, writes, "We sold two more copies of *To Speak the Truth* yesterday at a meeting for José Luis Ponce, a representative of the Cuban Interests Section, at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill."

Three Amtrak workers in North Carolina also recently purchased the book from Sue Skinner, who works for the railroad. Activists in Greensboro sold 13 copies of the book, surpassing their goal of 10.

By the time this campaign is completed, Pathfinder will have published the new English-language edition of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*. This book too will be of value to all those seeking a better understanding of the Cuban revolution and the socialist perspective in the words of one of its most outstanding leaders. Many who read *To Speak the Truth* will be interested in getting their hands on this new book.

BOOKS SOLD		
City	Goal	Sold
Atlanta	20	12
Birmingham	15	10
Boston	20	14
Brooklyn	40	34
Chicago	30	9
Cleveland	20	9
Des Moines	20	18
Detroit	18	12
Greensboro	10	13
Houston	17	16
Los Angeles	40	26
Miami	30	19
Morgantown	10	10
New York	50	36
Newark	30	18
Peoria	10	1
Philadelphia	22	9
Pittsburgh	20	7
Salt Lake City	20	9
San Francisco	30	33
Seattle	25	25
St. Louis	12	6
Twin Cities	25	14
Washington D.C.	20	17
France	2	1
Auckland	10	11
Christchurch	5	3
Iceland		1
Sydney	10	6
Montreal	10	5
Vancouver	10	11
Total	601	412
Unions		
ACTWU	8	2
IAM	40	9
ILGWU	10	2
OCAW	24	3
UAW	35	5
UFCW	6	2
USWA	20	6
UTU	35	23

	Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		New International	
	sold	goal	%	sold	goal	sold	goal
France	4	4	100%	2	5	12	20
Greece	7	11	64%	0	1	3	6
Australia	21	35	60%	0	8	5	18
New Zealand							
Wellington	8	10	80%	0	0	1	4
Christchurch	18	35	51%	0	1	3	8
Auckland	35	75	47%	3	5	4	30
N Z total	61	120	51%	3	6	8	42
Puerto Rico	1	2	50%	7	5	2	4
Sweden	19	40	48%	11	20	6	15
Canada							
Vancouver	36	75	48%	1	10	8	20
Toronto	37	90	41%	2	17	14	40
Montreal	31	80	39%	8	25	15	45
Canada total	104	245	42%	11	52	26	105
United States							
Portland, OR	3	2	150%	0	1	0	2
Cincinnati, OH	9	10	90%	0	5	0	4
Denver, CO	4	5	80%	1	3	0	2
Houston	49	66	74%	6	12	10	12
Hartford, CT	3	5	60%	0	1	0	4
New Haven, CT	6	10	60%	1	2	3	8
Twin Cities, MN	69	135	51%	4	17	10	35
Albany, NY	5	10	50%	1	1	1	3
Edinboro, PA	3	6	50%	0	1	1	3
Detroit, MI	49	100	49%	4	11	7	27
Greensboro, NC	32	65	49%	3	4	3	15
Seattle	38	80	48%	5	12	7	23
Salt Lake City, UT	52	110	47%	4	16	1	35
Des Moines, IA	39	85	46%	9	36	4	35
Washington, D.C.	39	85	46%	19	30	11	35
Atlanta	44	105	42%	4	15	6	25
St. Louis	33	80	41%	1	6	4	22
Peoria, IL	12	30	40%	0	2	2	10
Pittsburgh	41	105	39%	5	12	6	26
Cleveland	34	95	36%	0	16	0	20
Boston	41	115	36%	16	36	25	52
Birmingham, AL	26	75	35%	1	5	1	15
Brooklyn	38	110	35%	13	36	26	65
Philadelphia	40	115	35%	6	30	8	47
Miami	41	120	34%	21	55	16	70
San Francisco	49	150	33%	10	42	12	70
Los Angeles	71	230	31%	30	101	21	105
Chicago	41	145	28%	7	32	2	50
Morgantown, WV	14	55	25%	0	1	0	17
New York	32	145	22%	10	40	5	70
Newark, NJ	30	140	21%	10	35	10	50
Albuquerque, NM	1	7	14%	0	2	0	2
Ft. Madison, IA	0	2	0%	0	1	1	2
U.S. total	988	2598	39%	191	619	203	961
Iceland	5	13	38%	0	1	2	4
Britain							
London	24	70	34%	0	3	5	37
Manchester	12	50	24%	0	3	2	20
Sheffield	7	40	18%	0	1	0	14
Britain total	43	160	27%	0	7	7	71
Belgium	0	2	0%	0	2	0	1
TOTAL	1253	3230	38%	225	726	261	1,242
SHOULD BE	1650	3300	50%	350	700	625	1,250
IN THE UNIONS							
AUSTRALIA							
FPU	2	3	67%	0	1	1	2
AWU	1	3	33%	0	0	0	1
BRITAIN							
TGWU	2	7	29%	0	0	0	0
RMT	3	22	14%	0	0	0	0
AEEU	0	6	0%	0	0	0	0
NUM	0	2	0%	0	0	0	0
Britain Total	5	37	14%	0	0	0	0
CANADA							
CAW	10	12	83%	1	0	1	1
USWA	5	9	56%	0	1	0	3
IAM	5	18	28%	0	0	0	1
ACTWU	0	2	0%	0	3	0	7
CEP	0	5	0%	0	1	0	3
Canada Total	14	46	30%	0	0	0	0
NEW ZEALAND							
UFBGWU	2	5	40%	0	0	0	1
MWU	1	4	25%	0	0	0	1
EU	1	6	17%	0	1	0	1
N.Z. Total	4	15	27%	0	1	0	3
SWEDEN							
Food workers	1	3	33%	0	0	0	2
Metal workers	0	2	0%	0	0	0	2
Sweden Total	1	5	20%	0	0	0	4
UNITED STATES							
UFCW	11	15	73%	8	17	0	5
UTU	48	85	56%	1	10	0	25
OCAW	19	46	41%	2	6	0	15
UAW	55	135	41%	1	15	0	30
IAM	23	80	29%	1	3	1	14
USWA	22	87	25%	1	3	1	19
ILGWU	5	20	25%	9	20	2	15
ACTWU	6	25	24%	6	11	0	14
UMWA	5						
U.S. Total	167	493	34%	29	85	4	137

ACTWU-Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEEU-Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AFMEU-Automotive, Food, Metals and Engineering Union; CAW-Canadian Auto Workers; EU-Engineers Union; FPU-Food Preservers' Union; IAM-International Association of Machinists; ILGWU-International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU-Meat Workers Union; NUM-National Union of Mineworkers; NUW-Union of Workers; OCAW-Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT-National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU-Transport and General Workers Union; UAW-United Auto Workers; UFBGWU-United Food, Beverage and General Workers Union; UFCW-United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA-United Mine Workers of America; USWA-United Steelworkers of America; UTU-United Transportation Union.

Unionists demand Mark Curtis be freed

Continued from front page

glary and sentenced to 25 years in state prison. Curtis has served more than six years.

On September 2, in an attempt to further victimize him, authorities slapped Curtis with four charges of violating prison rules. In a kangaroo court-style prison hearing they convicted him of assault and gave him the maximum sentence of 30 days in "the hole," one year in lockup, and loss of one year's "good time."

Gary Winnett, a member of United Auto Workers Local 974, addressed the meeting. Winnett works at Caterpillar's Morton plant, which is not on strike. Two weeks earlier he had been fired for wearing a pro-union T-shirt he had worn numerous times before without incident. The company was forced to give him his job back.

"My experiences with 'Scab-o-pillar' made it clear to me the employers and the cops can choose to fix something up if they want to go after someone. It helped me to understand what had happened to Mark Curtis and why his fight is important to me and my fellow workers on strike."

Nell Wheeler, a unionist and worker at the Monfort plant here, spoke on behalf of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. A number of other workers from the plant attended the rally. "Over 300 letters of protest from all over the world have hit the prison and the Department of Corrections since the beginning of September," she

said. "This has to continue. The Department of Corrections has until October 31 to make a decision on Mark's appeal of his kangaroo court conviction and the sentence."

In written greetings to the meeting, Curtis said he has received "postcards from New York City and Havana, Cuba. On my table lie letters from West Yorkshire and Surrey, England; Paso Robles, California; Auckland, New Zealand; Berkeley, California; Atlanta, Georgia, and Le Havre, France. All from supporters I've never met."

Attempts to isolate Curtis have failed

This stream of messages "from people I hardly know is breaking down the isolation of what is sometimes called 'solitary confinement,'" Curtis said. "It is proof positive that the attempt by the prison administration to cut me off from the world has already failed."

Dannen Vance, a member of UAW Local 270 at Fawn Engineering here, said he heard about Curtis from coworkers active in the defense campaign and was stand-offish at first. "I wasn't like some of you, I didn't ever meet Mark and get to know him," Vance told the audience. "I took some time to think about this because it is a controversial topic. I watched the video, read almost everything I could, including the court transcripts, and came to the conclusion that Mark is an innocent man."



Militant/Ruth Nebbia

Speaking in support of Curtis at October 8 rally, locked-out Staley worker Frank Travis said, "It's time to let our brother go. An injury to one is an injury to all."

Vance volunteered to attend a union-sponsored Labor Day event in Decatur to talk to workers there about the case. Dozens signed letters urging prison authorities to end Curtis's lockup.

Kitty Loeppker, a millwright at the Granite City Steel Corporation in Granite City, Illinois, and member of United Steelworkers Local 16, said: "When I heard about the recent attack on Mark, I first got

sick, and then I got angry. I got a flyer about what the prison was doing to him, copied it, and posted it throughout my work area. I asked people to really read it. People began to ask questions, and it opened up a real discussion on the shop floor."

Unionists aid defense efforts

Five of Loeppker's coworkers watched a video about the case after getting off the midnight shift. They contributed \$73 to the defense campaign.

Betsey Farley, speaking for Curtis's party, the Socialist Workers Party, stated, "More and more fighters look at Mark's fight favorably. It's part of the fight for space to carry out political struggles. It's not just a fight for Mark's freedom, but for all of us — antiwar activists, farmers, unionists, pro-choice fighters — to carry out our struggles."

Ryan Kelly of the Young Socialists and Curtis's mother, Jane Curtis, also spoke and messages from a range of supporters were read. Some \$1,600 was raised at the meeting.

Messages urging an end to Curtis's lockup can be sent to Sally Chandler Halford, Director of the Iowa Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 East 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309; fax: (515) 281-7345. Copies and contributions should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311; fax: (515) 243-9869.

Activists challenge U.S. ban on Cuba travel

BY GREG McCARTAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Protesting the Clinton administration's new and more restrictive prohibitions on the right of U.S. residents to travel to Cuba, 70 people left the United States for Cuba October 1 under the banner of the Freedom to Travel Challenge. The group included 15 Cuban-Americans.

In defiance of U.S. law, the group spent a week in Cuba. U.S. government officials harassed participants in the first two travel challenges on their return by seizing passports and through interrogations. Prior to the second travel challenge the U.S. Treasury Department froze \$40,000 in the group's bank account in an effort to prevent the trip.

Sissy Wood, logistics coordinator for the Freedom to Travel Challenge, reported that four participants had no serious problems on their return to the United States this time.

Thirteen people returned from Cuba through San Francisco. Wood said they informed Customs officials that "we are exercising our right to travel." After a brief flurry of consultation, customs waived the group through.

Clinton tightens travel restrictions

As part of its escalation of hostilities against the Cuban revolution the Clinton administration issued new regulations at the end of August that ban nearly all travel to the Caribbean island by Cuban-Americans and severely curtail academic, journalistic, and educational trips by U.S.

residents. Previously these categories of individuals had been largely exempt from the travel restrictions that bar U.S. residents from spending money while in Cuba.

Challenge travel ban and embargo

Medea Benjamin, director of Global Exchange, said at a September 29 press conference here that the Clinton administration's moves make the travel ban a "more arbitrary policy. We are also outraged at the changes, especially those affecting Cuban-Americans." Benjamin said the group had anticipated the travel ban would have been lifted by now, and so did not plan a to have a large contingent challenging U.S. policy. In response to the new restrictions 70 people signed up to participate in the trip.

"We totally support the efforts of the Freedom to Travel Challenge to advocate

all kinds of exchanges between the two countries and to challenge restrictions on travel of Cuban-Americans," said Manuel Gomez, an environmental scientist and one of the Cuban-Americans on the current brigade.

Journalist Scott Armstrong, who recently traveled to Cuba, noted the wide opportunities available for those who visit the island to discuss politics with workers, young people, and others. "We have a right to see and hear what we want. A free press is predicated on the notion that the rest of the citizenry has the same rights they have," Armstrong said.

Benjamin said that while in the past the Freedom to Travel Challenge has focused on the right to travel, "given the widespread discussion now about both the U.S. embargo and the travel ban we must challenge both. The two are intertwined."

Framed worker wins support in San Francisco

BY VED MANGA

SAN FRANCISCO — Supporters of Mark Curtis, a framed-up union and political activist, held a public meeting September 24 at the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union hall here to win broader backing for his fight for justice. The event was an emergency response protesting the decision of prison authorities to victimize Curtis by placing him in lockup.

A range of fighters for social justice ad-

ressed the forum, including representatives of campaigns to free other victims of government frame-ups.

"There is no justice in the United States," said Bobby Castillo, an international spokesperson for Leonard Peltier. The Native American rights fighter has been incarcerated for more than 18 years on false charges that he killed an FBI agent.

Castillo described the recent campaign waged by the FBI to keep Peltier incarcerated and to refuse him parole. Authorities have said they will consider parole for Peltier only in 15 years, the second life sentence that he would have to serve.

"They're building animal factories to restrict the movement of human beings," Castillo said, referring to the degrading conditions and denial of democratic rights to which prisoners are subjected. Commenting on Curtis's situation in the "hole" he said that the authorities wanted to send a clear message "that one should not be a successful organizer in the United States."

Susan Dillow, speaking on behalf of the Gary Graham Justice Coalition, described the railroading of Gary Graham on murder charges. "It is about basic justice, racism, and thinking about Blacks and Hispanics as lesser people," she said. Graham is currently on death row and has been spared from execution four times as a result of the mass support from around the world. Dillow urged participants to "stand up" and get the word out about the cases.

"Mark Curtis is a political activist and keeps on fighting," said Nell Wheeler, a

member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union local 431. Wheeler represented the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, based in Des Moines, Iowa. She said the recent victimization of Mark Curtis in prison was a further attempt by prison authorities to break him. "And as long as he doesn't break, they will try to keep him in prison."

Wheeler said attacks like this one are intended not only to demoralize supporters of Mark Curtis but others among the thousands of rebel youth and unionists getting involved political activity today. "From striking workers at Caterpillar, Firestone, and Staley to youth radicalizing on the campus, political activists recognize that an injury to one is truly an injury to all and are willing to take up the case of Mark Curtis," she stated. She pointed out that the conditions Curtis has been subjected to — the severe restrictions on the right to appeal, the presumption of being guilty and the denial of other basic democratic rights — are exactly what thousands of other incarcerated workers face.

There is no guarantee of winning this effort, Wheeler noted, but "if we don't fight we will lose." She urged those present to send letters and faxes demanding the charges be dropped and that Mark Curtis be granted parole, as well as getting out the facts about Curtis's case through meetings, video showings, and participation in political events.

The meeting collected some \$1,800 in donations and pledges for the defense effort.

Literature available from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee

The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis

A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice

The story of the frame-up of unionist and political activist Mark Curtis on rape and burglary charges. His real crime, in the authorities' eyes, is that he is part of a layer of young workers active in supporting the rights of immigrants, strengthening the unions, and campaigning against U.S. government intervention from Cuba to the Mideast.

Pathfinder booklet. \$5.00

- The Stakes in the Worldwide Political Campaign to Defend Mark Curtis.

Pamphlet. \$2.00

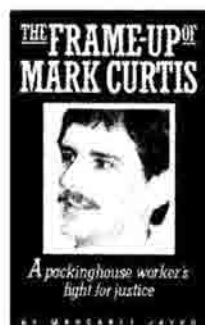
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Quebec issue poses crisis to Canada's rulers

BY STEVE PENNER

MONTREAL — The September 12 election of a Parti Québécois (PQ) provincial government committed to holding a referendum in 1995 on establishing a "sovereign" Quebec has opened the latest stage in the crisis facing Canada's capitalist rulers.

The 1995 referendum will be the third in Canada on Quebec's relation to the rest of the country since 1980 and the second in the last two years. Quebec, with a population of 7 million, is the second largest of Canada's 10 provinces. Eighty percent of its population is Québécois, who constitute an oppressed French-speaking nationality.

The day after the PQ's election victory the dominant wing of the Canadian ruling class, which supports a strong federal government and opposes Quebec's independence, launched the latest round in what the *Toronto Star* described as the "battle to save Canada." The *Ottawa Citizen* warned that the bourgeois nationalist PQ government is "bent on the destruction of Canada. The urgent work of federalists in Quebec and across the country is now to defeat [Quebec premier] Jacques Parizeau at his own referendum."

The English-language capitalist media is attempting to whip up a chauvinist reaction and convince working people to oppose any moves that could lead toward the formation of an independent or more autonomous Quebec. They claim that this would have disastrous economic consequences and could destroy what Canadian government officials describe as one of the world's finest and freest countries.

At the same time, as the *Toronto Star* pointed out, Québécois are being told that "if they separate their taxes will go up; they will lose investment; they could go through a debt crisis — the idea being that if we can scare them enough, they'll have no choice but to vote to stay in Canada."

Despite the massive campaign waged by Canada's federal rulers over the past three decades against "the separatist threat" — including the imposition of martial law in October 1970 and the jailing of hundreds of Quebec nationalists, trade union officials, socialists, and others in the 1970s — the determination of Québécois to win their national rights has never been broken.

Quebecois remain oppressed

Quebecois waged massive struggles from the late 1930s through the early 1970s to fight for their rights — including battles for equal wages with English-speaking and U.S. workers, against wartime conscription, and in opposition to discrimination against those who spoke



Some 50,000 workers marched in Montreal, Quebec, in February 1993 against proposed cutbacks in unemployment insurance. Canadian rulers are concerned about workers' continued resistance to their austerity measures.

French on the job, in the education system, and in department stores.

While important gains were won Quebecois continue to be oppressed. Their average incomes continue to be lower than workers whose first language is English. They have a higher rate of unemployment and worse housing, health services, and education. Moreover, their fundamental right to self-determination — to freely decide their own future — continues to be denied, as it has throughout Canadian history.

Through the course of the struggles for their rights a majority of Quebecois concluded that a radical change was needed in Quebec's relation to the Canadian state. Since the mid-1960s public opinion polls have consistently shown that more than one-third of the province's population supports the formation of an independent Quebec. A majority support the granting of greater powers to the Quebec government.

Nevertheless, Ottawa and the nine other provincial governments have consistently refused to grant Quebec's demands in any meaningful way. In 1982, Ottawa and the governments of the other provinces imposed a series of amendments to the Canadian constitution further limiting some of Quebec's powers despite the overwhelming opposition, not only of Quebec's Na-

tional Assembly, but of trade union, farm, and student organizations.

Subsequent attempts to modify the constitution, while largely symbolic, were defeated in part because a wing of the ruling class considered them to represent capitulation to Quebec. Today, the federal government insists it is not prepared to make any significant concessions to Quebec.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien also claims that Quebec does not have the legal right to separate from Canada without the agreement of either the federal parliament or a cross-country referendum.

Canadian imperialism

While the federalist wing of the Canadian rulers recognize that Quebec's separation is a serious possibility, they remain opposed to granting Quebec any real degree of national autonomy. Any decentralization of the Canadian state along these lines — they fear — might weaken Ottawa's capacity to take decisive measures to shore up the capitalists' falling profit rates.

Canada, a relatively small imperialist power of 30 million people, is increasingly caught in the tightening squeeze of competition among the world's imperialist powers, and especially the rising conflicts with

its main trading partner and rival, the United States.

Canada's ruling rich have been placed in an increasingly disadvantageous position in relation to their U.S. competitors by their failure to drive down workers' wages, working conditions, and social services to nearly the degree achieved by their U.S. counterparts.

Following the election of the PQ the *Globe and Mail* warned the federal government to "wake up to the dual challenge" it now faces. "Not only must it contain separatist sentiment in Quebec...[it must] do so without diverging from its existing political agenda."

"Most insiders in Ottawa argue that putting off difficult issues such as social-security reform and deficit reduction will only play into the hands of sovereigntist forces wishing to portray the federal government as an immobilized behemoth."

Austerity measures

The so-called reforms are code words for a massive attack on the social wage of working people won through decades of struggle, including unemployment insurance, old age pensions, public health insurance, and welfare. The Chrétien government decided to postpone its latest round of cutbacks until after the Quebec elections for fear of provoking a backlash among working-class voters.

Many ruling-class spokespeople have warned Ottawa that they cannot afford any further postponements of the cuts. In response, Chrétien announced that his government will table a "discussion paper" outlining proposals to "overhaul Canada's social safety net" in early October.

The *Globe* also pointed out that a debate is "quietly raging" within the government over the scope of those cuts. This reflects the fear among a layer of the rulers that too drastic cutbacks will provoke substantial working-class resistance and begin to reverse the retreat of the labor movement in face of the bosses' attacks.

While there was a sharp decline in the level of strike activity over the last couple of years important fights have taken place — like the year-long battle by gold miners in Yellowknife at the Royal Oak mine in the Northwest Territories and the current strike by Irving oil refinery workers in St. John, New Brunswick.

Moreover, many tens of thousands of working people have participated in actions protesting cutbacks in unemployment insurance, health care, and other social services as well as against anti-labor laws and attacks on government workers' wages and working conditions.

—YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD—

'Protest Washington's war moves against Iraq'

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists, an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS or to join write: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 2396, New York, NY 10009, or call (212) 475-6482.

The following statement protesting the U.S. government's war drive against Iraq was issued October 10 by the Young Socialists.

As 36,000 U.S. troops mobilize towards a military confrontation with Iraq and another 30,000 U.S. troops prepare to head into the Persian Gulf, Young Socialists, workers, and supporters of democratic rights around the world should protest against this war drive.

The concerns of the U.S. government have nothing to do with humanitarianism or democracy. The U.S. government has no problem with dictators. It has supported dictatorships in Haiti for decades, including the right-wing paramilitary leaders who were on the CIA payroll. Far from upholding democracy, the Clinton administration is hypocritically preparing a possible brutal assault on workers and peasants of Iraq to create a stable regime in the Middle East subordinate to the interests of the billion-

aire families that rule the United States.

Working people and fighting youth around the world have no interest in this war. A military assault on Iraq will not advance the struggle of workers and farmers in Iraq, the United States, or anywhere else. The same ruling class that carried out the brutal massacre of tens of thousands of Iraqi working people on the road to Basra in 1991 is carrying out the attacks on workers' democratic rights and driving down wages and conditions on the job in the United States today.

The U.S. government is trying to strangle Iraqi workers and peasants through the economic sanctions that have been in place since the end of the Persian Gulf war. Cholera and other preventable diseases have been ravaging the working-class families of Iraq since 1991. We must speak out for the right of self-determination of the Iraqi people. The U.S. government has no right to throw its military might around the world and decide the fate of working people in Iraq, Haiti, or anywhere else.

Far from a new world order, the Persian Gulf war was the signal of a growing world capitalist disorder, where the U.S. government and other capitalist regimes will resort to more and more military solutions to their mounting crisis; from the increased confrontations with Cuba to the military occupation of Haiti. Fighting workers and

youth should organize protests against this aggression. We can also use the *New Internationalist* magazine, with the article "Opening Guns of World War III" to explain the truth about the U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf war and what that clash means to working people and youth today.

U.S. Hands Off Iraq!
Lift the Sanctions Now!

BY KAREN WILLIAMS

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina — For the first time in three years, a group of abortion rights activists countered an annual antichoice demonstration here. The peaceful counter-mobilization was organized by the Young Socialists. Nearly 30 young people and other activists came out to voice their opposition to the rightists' attacks against abortion rights in the South and all over the country. Activists, including students from two area campuses and members of the National Organization for Women participated in the abortion rights mobilization.

Although the pro-choice activists were greatly outnumbered, public support for abortion rights was strong as passersby shouted messages of support and gave thumbs up signs to the pro-choice pickets. Discussion at the demonstration focused

on how to build for future activities and defend clinics. Participants in the action are now organizing to help in the defense of a local clinic that is being harassed by rightist forces.

Karen Williams is a member of the Young Socialists in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

A note to all Young Socialists

Please send in your articles to the Young Socialists office in New York. We are looking for reports from political activities the YS is involved in and articles on important issues of the day. Be sure to get quotes from participants in activities you are writing about, and send in pictures too.

Since the *Militant* goes to print on Thursdays, all contributions to the column must be received on the previous Saturday to give us enough time to edit and get back with the writer if there are any questions. Articles can be sent by electronic mail to 73323.1177@compuserve.com, or faxed to 212-388-1659.

'Our sovereignty, independence, and socialism are not a bargaining chip'

Speech by Cuban foreign minister Roberto Robaina to UN General Assembly

The following is the speech given October 3 by Roberto Robaina, Cuba's foreign minister, to the United Nations General Assembly. The translation from Spanish is based on the text provided by the Cuban mission to the United Nations. Subheadings, footnotes, and text in brackets are by the 'Militant.'

Mr. President,

While we are here making speeches, a small and impoverished Caribbean nation is being militarily occupied. The inconceivable deal with the generals responsible for the coup d'état, yesterday threatened as murderers but today transformed into complacent partners, ignores the decisions of the international community and the will of the Haitian people. The fundamental principles of the UN Charter and even the authority of the Security Council and the United Nations themselves are among the victims of this unfortunate event, as they have been totally ignored in the actions that, nonetheless, were carried out allegedly on their behalf.

History repeats itself.

It was the cannons of the invaders and the boots of the foreign occupiers that installed in Haiti the dictatorships of this century and that trained and supported those who are still tyrannizing its people. How then can we trust that they will create democracy in the future?

Cuba always supported and promoted efforts to restore the constitutional order in Haiti with the return of President [Jean-Bertrand] Aristide, without conditions or restrictions, and rejected the attempts of resorting to foreign intervention as a means to find a solution to the conflict. From the very beginning Cuba denounced the decision by the Security Council in backing the violation of the Charter by some of its members and of joining in their interventionist designs. Now, faced with a fait accompli, there is nothing else for us to do but reiterate our government's position: Those who today are applauding the invasion could become its victims tomorrow.

An essential component of this drama is clearly the manipulation to which the United Nations — born under the assumption of sovereign equality of its members — has been subjected.

Cuba reiterates its firm rejection of the attempts to adopt unilateral decisions on issues of vital importance to all peoples, and to abuse the anachronistic veto privilege, granted by the Charter to a group of states with permanent membership in the Security Council.

It is urgently necessary to bring democracy to international relations and to the United Nations. It is indispensable to respect the Charter and to have it respected, and to put an end to its systematic violation by the most powerful.

Democratizing the United Nations is an unpostponable imperative at the present time, on the eve of its fiftieth anniversary. The time has come for this organization to cease responding to the interests of a handful of powers.

U.S. invasions of Haiti and Somalia

As you are well aware, Mr. President, being a distinguished son of the African continent and whose election to the presidency honors us all, Somalia is still fresh in our minds. The drama of hunger and starvation in that sister nation has continued, even if TV newsreels no longer show the horrible images that served as a prelude to



Thousands of workers mobilize August 5 on Havana's waterfront to beat back antigovernment rioters and to demonstrate support for the revolution. President Fidel Castro is pictured above in the middle of the crowd.

the so-called humanitarian invasion supported by this organization.

With these invasions, Haiti and Somalia will not cease being poor countries. The evils of the Third World are not resolved through military occupations, which serve selfish interests only.

In both cases, which have already become dangerous precedents, the Security Council acted under pressure from a great power, which monopolized the implementation of these actions and prevented the

“Those who today are applauding the invasion of Haiti could become its victims tomorrow...”

majority of member states from even voicing their views. In both cases, under the alleged authority of the Security Council, neutrality and impartiality — essential principles of that body — have been violated.

These are examples of the illegitimate expansion of the Security Council into areas beyond its mandate, such as the right to intervene based on vague arguments of humanitarian protection, or the capacity to license one or several states with the power to take unilateral punitive actions, under chapter VII of the Charter, in operations of invasion, occupation, and intervention.

In fact, what is at stake is the sovereignty, self-determination and political independence of countless countries, primarily although not exclusively, of the Third World.

At the expense of the sufferings of a number of peoples, and without their consent, attempts are being made to give *carte blanche* and a predominant role to the Security Council regarding issues outside of its mandate and for which this organization has no prerogative whatsoever.

Democratize United Nations

There is no doubt that the specific functioning of the Security Council deserves in-depth examination, and that this body must become democratic and have a broader and more representative membership from the countries of the Third World. Poor and small countries are rightly entitled to demand to be present in the Council and to demand that it follow equitable and transparent procedures in its activities. There should be permanent members from Latin America, Africa, and the developing coun-

tries in Asia. This category should not exclusively belong to large economic powers associated with the West.

The Security Council cannot arrogate upon itself powers that have not been invested to it, nor can it seek to overstep the organization that created it and to which it is accountable. This General Assembly has to exercise its obligation to control the actions of the Security Council and to demand that it observe the Charter.

There should also be greater response to the interests of the developing world in other areas of this organization. The crucial problems of its peoples are not and cannot be resolved with invasions or with allegedly humanitarian military operations. Nor can they be resolved with emergency assistance programs whose only aim is to mitigate the most alarming consequences of structural underdevelopment.

If the international community and the United Nations, its most representative organization, do not adopt timely measures and programs required to develop the Third World, we will soon be debating in this forum the causes and consequences of the arrival of underdevelopment in the First World.

The growing concern of industrialized countries on migration issues is quite illustrative, as confirmed by the debates undertaken in the recently concluded International Conference on Population and Development.

Third World subordinated

It is obvious that concepts regarding cooperation imposed from the North are prevalent, with publicity-seeking titles devoid of any practical meaning for solving the problems brought about by poverty, and which tend to mutilate the right to development that peoples of the world are demanding. Although terms such as sustainable development, human development, or sustainable human development might contain defensible ideals from the theoretical point of view, they are being used in practice to corrode the commitments achieved during long years of efforts aimed at facilitating international cooperation for development on a just and democratic basis.

Unacceptable conditions and interference in the domestic policy of states are being imposed in this manner, and attempts are being made to fix strategic priorities for development in countries that although poor, are sovereign and independent. Hence, the right to development proclaimed by this organization is being subordinated to the interests of the large

transnational economic powers, which in fact are continuing to dictate the rules and practices of international economic relations.

We cannot and must not allow a UN “Agenda for Development” to be designed as a replacement for the International Strategy for Development and other important instruments that have been the result of the efforts of the developing countries in defending their interests, and to which they have devoted large amounts of flexibility and compromise.

Misery for working people

Nor can we allow the United Nations to continue being used for the imposition of neoliberal economic models bringing about backwardness and misery to millions of persons, in exchange for short-term economic growth that benefits only minority elites in Third World countries and their partners in the affluent North.

The fundamental approach, in Cuba's view, should be focused on comprehensive economic growth that will make it possible to satisfy pressing social needs on the basis of justice and equity. It is indispensable to restructure international economic relations on the basis of an effective, just, equitable and nondiscriminatory cooperation with the countries in the South.

Poverty is not a preconceived fate, much less a human right, no matter how hard the rich countries try to prove otherwise. As long as universal respect for human rights continues to be manipulated by a handful of rich nations, the have-nots of the South will continue to play the role of the accused, with the affluent societies in the North playing the part of judge and jury.

All attempts to impose as universal dogmas systems of government designed by the privileged nations of the First World, regardless of the different social, economic, historical and cultural realities of the Third World, are unacceptable and are doomed to failure.

War and fascism

Hypocrisy must also be eradicated. It would be unforgivable to continue to witness humanity's tragedy with indifference while wasting our efforts in elitist concerns. War, xenophobia, neofascism and racism are proliferating in our midst; the perfidious degradation of women and children is increasing; unemployment is on the rise; the environment is being degraded; the culture of entire populations and nationalities is being crushed. Millions of human beings are living in poverty, are afflicted by starvation, are denied access to basic medical care and education, and little, very little, has the United Nations done to deal with these issues as clear violations of human rights.

Countries that on the basis of equity and justice struggle to attain their development, are really working in favor of the human rights of their peoples. Countries that prevent us from developing are, in reality, violating the human rights of our populations.

Mr. President, the Association of Caribbean States was recently established as a means to respond to the globalization of the international economy and to strengthen cooperation between states, countries, and territories in our region. We, the peoples of the Caribbean Sea, are conscious of the fact that only by closely coordinating our interests can we become competitive markets.

This new organization, brought into being by urgent needs, contributes, together

Continued on page 9

National march will protest U.S. policy against Cuba

BY GREG McCARTAN
AND AARON RUBY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "End the U.S. Economic Blockade of Cuba" is the central demand of a march and rally to be held in front of the White House November 12. Sponsored by dozens of local groups and a range of national organizations, the protest comes in the midst of an escalation by the Clinton administration of Washington's long-standing hostilities against the Cuban revolution.

At a planning meeting here October 2, representatives from organizations in New York; Richmond, Virginia; Baltimore; Philadelphia and Pittsburgh reported on initial plans to build participation in the march. John Cox, an activist in the Pittsburgh area, reported that college students responded right away to news of the protest by beginning to make plans to travel to Washington. Fifty students from Carlow College, for example, have already signed up to attend. Supporters of the protest here are organizing a major publicity effort that includes setting up information tables on college campuses, posting up leaflets around the city, and appealing to local radio stations for public service announcements.

On November 12 demonstrators will gather at Malcolm X Park in northwest Washington, D.C. for a 1:00 p.m. march to the White House. A rally is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. at Lafayette Park. Other demands include calling on the U.S. government to normalize relations with Cuba; end

the ban on travel to Cuba by U.S. residents; and passage of two pieces of legislation sponsored by Democratic Congressmen Charles Rangel and José Serrano that would overturn all or part of the U.S. embargo.

Debate on U.S. invasion of Haiti

At the October 2 planning meeting a debate broke out on whether to include "U.S. Out Of Haiti!" as one of the demands of the November 12 action. Representatives of several organizations argued that expressing opposition to the U.S. military occupation of Haiti would make it harder to garner support from elected officials in Congress and other politicians who support the invasion of Haiti, in particular those in the Congressional Black Caucus. One participant said that including the demand against the U.S. occupation of Haiti would turn away critics of the embargo like Congressman Lee Hamilton and Senator Claiborne Pell, who support the occupation of Haiti. The two Democrats also co-authored an opinion column in the *Washington Post* calling for lifting the embargo on Cuba — as the most effective way for Washington to wrest concessions from the Cuban government.

Other participants at the planning meeting, however, argued that the invasion and subsequent occupation of Haiti stand as a threat to the sovereignty and independence of all countries the U.S. government seeks to dominate. They pointed out that Rangel, Hamilton, Pell and other capitalist politi-

cians call for lifting the embargo to weaken the Cuban revolution. And they noted that the use of the Guantánamo naval base in Cuba — illegally occupied by the U.S. government — for the military occupation of Haiti is a direct provocation against Cuba as well.

Since the turn of the century Washington has used the base to launch invasions of neighboring countries, and more recently to point a dagger at the heart of the Cuban revolution. Parts of the base are now being used as a concentration camp to detain some 40,000 Haitian refugees and Cubans who took to the sea in an effort to reach the United States in August and September.

In the end, a majority of those present voted in support of the demands calling for Washington to get out of Haiti and the Guantánamo base.

Sponsors of the march include the Antonio Maceo Brigade, Casa de las Américas, Committees of Correspondence, CISPES, Communist Party, Cuba Information Project, IFCO/Pastors for Peace, National Venceremos Brigade, Nicaragua Network, Socialist Workers Party, United States Students Association, War Resisters League, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Workers World Party, and the Young Socialists. The National Network on Cuba, a nationwide umbrella or-

END THE U.S. ECONOMIC BLOCKADE OF CUBA

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Leaflet announcing November 12 demonstration

ganization of groups that do work in defense of Cuba, is also supporting the action.

The November 12 demonstration was one of the main points on the agenda at a national meeting of the Network held in Detroit September 23. The march will coincide with the arrival in Washington of the U.S.-Cuba Friendship Caravan. Participants in the Friendship Caravan are scheduled to converge on the city from various routes across the United States and lead off the march.

For more information on the march contact the November 12 Coalition in New York at (212) 620-0072 or in Washington, D.C., at (202) 544-9355.

Speech by Cuban foreign minister to UN assembly

Continued from page 8

with the Ibero-American Summits, to advance towards the indispensable and necessary economic integration and the joint analysis of common strategies in an environment that links us through history and culture.

Cuba, part and parcel of that community of Latin American and Caribbean nations by origin, has decided to sign, at the appropriate moment, the Tlatelolco Treaty for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in our region.

U.S. nuclear weapons

As is well known, war vessels armed with nuclear weapons anchor both in the portion of our territory illegally occupied by the United States, and in Puerto Rico. Without renouncing our demand for their withdrawal, we subscribe to the noble aims of this agreement as a testimony of our will to integrate with Latin America and the Caribbean, as a gesture toward our brothers in the region and with the purpose of broadening our mechanisms for dialogue and agreements.

At the Ibero-American Summits, held since 1991, for the first time the Latin peoples south of the Rio Bravo have met exclusively among themselves to discuss issues of common interest.

Meanwhile, another Summit has been convened [for December], of all places in Miami. All governments in the Americas, except the one I represent have been invited. It is said that it will discuss three main issues: free trade, collective security, and the promotion of programs to alleviate extreme poverty.

We would have to determine, then, which of the two Americas will benefit more from this meeting in Miami. If positive results for the Latin Americans were to emerge from this meeting, Cuba would sincerely welcome its convening, even if not present.

It could become an excellent occasion to demand from our neighbor to the north a fair treatment in trade and financial relations as well as in the transfer of technology, and to request the host to fulfill its obligations in the field of international cooperation. It is yet to be seen how a country that has canceled its meager aid programs to the region could raise the necessary funds to alleviate poverty among the countries convened.

Mr. President, now a few words regarding my country.

In two consecutive occasions this forum, by an overwhelming majority, has demanded the elimination of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the government of the United States against my country. Twice, the reply given by the United States to this General Assembly has been silence.

Embargo violates Cuban sovereignty

The question is not, as some would like it to be, that the blockaded nation has been victorious and the blockading nation has been defeated. It is not only our friends or the governments that fully support our policy that have voted to put an end to this irrational siege.

The question is, simply, that the great majority of the world is witnessing an action without any legal justification, without moral virtues, and without ethical principles, one that not only violates Cuba's sovereignty, but also harms the most basic precepts of international understanding. It is a policy rejected by all countries that advocates the rule of law and of mutual respect in relations between states.

In this complex and convulsed world, pretending to be plural, free, and democratic, the United States attempts to deny my country, Cuba, the place it deserves as a sovereign nation. It would seem as if two centuries in the history of relations between the two countries meant nothing and, what is worse, that the Cold War had frozen forever over that small portion of land and sun for having committed the "sin" of attempting to be free and truly independent 90 miles from the most powerful country on this planet.

My homeland, Mr. President, has been subjected to hardships that probably no other country has had to bear: with the disappearance of socialism in Europe, our markets, our sources of primary products and of financing disappeared overnight.

The process of overcoming the domestic difficulties and reforming the economic and administrative structures conceived during a certain stage of our socialist effort, was also disrupted by the reinforcement of a policy of isolation and strangulation that our people had already been stoically facing for years.

In the midst of this dangerous combination of elements and of forecasts of a

Cuban collapse since 1989, my country did not collapse nor will it collapse.

We have survived all types of strategies, from those promoting terrorist and subversive actions from abroad, to those exerting pressure in different directions aimed at reinforcing the blockade that, as I already said, this Assembly has rejected for two consecutive years.

This does not mean that the situation that my people face has ceased to be harsh and complex. The proven patriotism and dignity of the Cuban people deserve from this world forum a strong demand for justice, and that it once again rejects such a long and cruel hostility to which Cuba has been subjected.

The unequal struggle forced upon us for so many years has not mitigated our vocation for peace. Cuba persists in its will to achieve negotiated solutions to its differences with any country, provided that they are on the basis of sovereign equality and under the sole condition of mutual respect. This organization is well aware of that stance. We are a mature, flexible, and civilized people, faithful to the agreements we enter into on the basis of sovereignty and equality.

A series of bilateral meetings were recently held in New York which led to partial solutions to the already long-standing dispute between Cuba and the United States.

The spirit of seriousness and respect that prevailed in those negotiations and the de-

sire on both sides to find solutions, made it possible to conclude an agreement satisfactory for both parties that, if totally fulfilled, will lay the foundations for the normalization of migratory relations between the two countries.

We desire peace with all our neighbors, but peace with dignity. Our sovereignty, independence, and the socialism that we freely chose will never be a bargaining chip in any negotiating table, nor will we ever demand concessions of such nature from any country.

We are increasingly opening ourselves to the world, without demanding nor accepting conditions. A great power is blockading us, blockading its own people and blockading the sons and daughters of my people living in its territory, preventing them from assisting and from reuniting with their families. Such cruelty has no parallel in the history of massive violations of human rights.

We implore nothing, as our national hero, Jose Martí, the centennial of whose death in the struggle for our true independence will be next year, educated us in the knowledge that "cowardice and indifference can never be the laws of humanity." Then, according to his teachings, "and certain of the response, we ask the world if the sacrifice of a generous people, immolating itself for the sake of opening itself up to it, will find humanity indifferent or impious to its cause."

Thank you.

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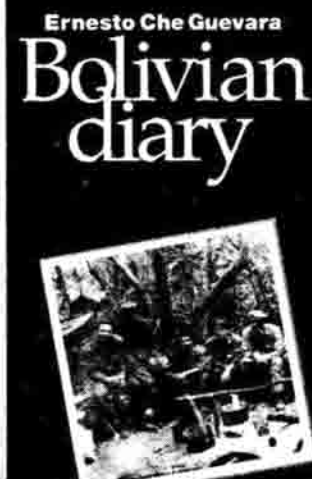
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Clinton launches war moves against Iraq

Continued from front page

to permanently withdraw its 20,000 elite Republican Guards, who had been moved south, while allowing 50,000 regular Iraqi army troops in that area.

The U.S. government initially sought to impose an "exclusionary zone" in southern Iraq where Iraqi troops and heavy equipment in the zone would be subject to attack by U.S. aircraft. U.S. and United Nations forces, in violation of Iraq's sovereignty, already enforce similar "no-fly zones" over southern and northern Iraq.

Washington, however, soon backed away from this plan. U.S. officials concluded, according to an article in the October 12 *Wall Street Journal*, that "the removal of Iraqi military power from southern Iraq" might "provoke a rebellion among Shiite Arabs who live there, destabilizing Iraq in a way that would be dangerous to the region."

In addition, in what the *New York Times* called "a sign of the fissures within the coalition against Iraq," Paris, which has been pursuing lucrative business with Iraq, firmly objected to the U.S. plan. "France does not favor an exclusion zone," its foreign minister, Alain Juppé, declared. French defense minister François Léotard criticized the Clinton administration, saying the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf was "not unconnected with domestic politics."

In recent months, Paris, Moscow, and

Beijing, all members of the UN Security Council, have been pushing to ease the sanctions.

French oil firms such as Total and Elf-Aquitaine have reportedly signed protocols with Baghdad to modernize its oil industry and explore for oil. In April, the French government signed a formal agreement to rebuild Iraq's Nahr Umar oil field. That month, a French delegation of 28 businessmen from major companies including, Alcatel-Alsthom, Renault, and Citroen went to Baghdad to discuss building everything from chemical plants to automotive factories.

The Iraqi oil minister was in Moscow October 11 to hold discussions with Russian companies on an agreement for rebuilding parts of Iraq's oil industry. That same day, the Russian government sent an envoy to Baghdad to try to resolve the crisis.

In addition, the Turkish government, which wants to resume importing oil from Iraq, has lobbied hard for an end to sanctions. Ankara has threatened to deny U.S. forces access to the Incirlik airbase in case of an invasion of Iraq.

Meanwhile, even as Iraqi troops withdraw, Washington continues to build up its forces in the Gulf and threaten military action against Iraq. U.S. defense secretary William Perry said that one of the options being considered was pre-emptive military strikes against Iraq. "We have prepared

contingency plans to do that," he said on ABC's "Nightline" October 11. In an interview a day earlier on the "Today" show on NBC, Perry refused to rule "in or out" the possibility of U.S. "air strikes on Baghdad, on other targets, even if the Iraqi forces do not invade Kuwait."

"We clearly have the capacity to go to downtown Baghdad," Lt. Gen. John Sheehan, operations director at the Pentagon, declared.

Embargo devastates Iraqi toilers

Washington remains determined to maintain the economic embargo that was imposed on Iraq during the Gulf War. During that war, U.S. troops massacred tens of thousands of Iraqi men, women, and children. After six weeks of bombing and a brutal 100-hour invasion, however, Washington failed to achieve its goal of removing Hussein from power and placing a more reliable and stable servant of U.S. imperialism in Baghdad. The sanctions forbid most trade between Iraq and other countries, require Iraq to allow representatives of imperialist governments to permanently monitor its arms industry, and have forced the Iraqi government to destroy most of its weapons.

Most recently, UN officials completed installation of the most sophisticated electronic spying system ever deployed. "There has never been a monitoring program like this," Timothy Trevan, a senior



Result of U.S. embargo: woman takes her starving baby to Baghdad hospital.

officer with the UN Special Commission for Iraq, said. The system includes 20 tons of high-tech gear linked to UN headquarters in Baghdad by microwave radio signals. The UN operation involves more than 150 sites in Iraq, ground and airborne inspection teams, and access to a U.S. spy plane based in Saudi Arabia.

The most immediate effect of the economic embargo, however, has been to devastate the living conditions of working people. On September 25, the Iraqi government cut almost in half the monthly food rations, which account for about 50 percent of the caloric intake of much of the population. As a result, food prices doubled, making it impossible for ordinary Iraqis to make up for the lower provisions. Inflation is running at a staggering 24,000 percent a year.

The rations of flour, rice, sugar, tea, and soap have prevented outright starvation. However, according to a recent UNICEF report, many Iraqi's suffered from malnutrition even before the current cuts. The report notes that children are among those hardest hit by the deteriorating living conditions. More than 100,000 children have died since the sanctions began. Polio, diphtheria, and measles have taken a heavy toll because of shortages of vaccines, and the number of babies born with birth defects or who die during delivery has increased.

U.S. threats against North Korea

In an editorial on October 11, the *New York Times* offered glowing praise to Clinton for his aggressive moves against Iraq. "The President has reassured a nervous public that, when clearly and urgently needed, he can project force decisively and effectively," the editors gushed.

Perry, in an interview on CNN's "Day Break" October 10, elaborated further on the Clinton administration's bellicose foreign policy. Asked what would happen if "tensions were to heat up again on the Korean peninsula," the defense secretary replied, "When we deploy forces to Haiti, when we deploy forces to the Mideast, we do it in a way in which we reserve forces that would be available for Korea. We still have very substantial forces that could go to Korea, if necessary."

Gulf War: 'opening guns of World War III'

Printed below are excerpts from the article "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq" by Jack Barnes. This article, which appears in issue no. 7 of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, explains that the 1990-91 U.S.-led war against Iraq did not lead to the dawn of a new world order. The Gulf War held a mirror to the declining capitalist world order and accelerated its contradictions. It sounded the opening guns of sharpening conflicts and class battles that will decide whether the horrors of World War III are inflicted on humanity or a road is opened by working people to a socialist future of international human solidarity.

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The immediate goal of the Republican/Democratic bipartisan war drive and assault on Iraq was to use Washington's military might to bolster U.S. dominance in the Arab-Persian Gulf region, which has some 65 percent of the world's known oil reserves. To accomplish this aim, the U.S. rulers sought to pursue the war drive in such a way as to guarantee the establishment of a regime in Baghdad that for all practical purposes would be an imperialist protectorate, politically subservient to the U.S. government. They hoped the political momentum of such a blow would enable them to shift the class and state relationship of forces in the Gulf more to their favor, as well as advance their interests vis-à-vis their imperialist competitors. That was the purpose of the U.S. government's war drive against Iraq—not to liberate Kuwait or restore its national sovereignty, let alone bring democracy to the Arabian Peninsula.

In pursuing these objectives, the U.S. rulers sought to emerge with a victory that would at least substantially weaken the "Vietnam syndrome," if not put it behind them altogether. [U.S. president George] Bush and his bipartisan supporters openly proclaimed this goal during the war drive. The stakes were big ones, and they remain so. Accomplishing that goal would open the door to pushing back the lasting gains registered by the U.S. working class through the Black rights struggles that mounted through the late 1950s and into the 1960s, and of the subsequent anti-Vietnam War movement and fights for women's rights. It would be an aid to them in attempting to shove the labor movement toward the fringes of politics in the United States and push the relationship of class forces further to the advantage of the employing class. This would in turn open up new possibilities of using strategic military power in their interests around the

world.

The Bush administration's decision to halt offensive operations in southern Iraq at midnight February 27 [1991] also registered an assessment that the decisive allied military victory, won with such few U.S. casualties, had laid the basis for accomplishing U.S. imperialism's goals both in the Gulf region and at home. The rulers concluded that the results of the embargo, bombardment, and invasion meant that a post-Saddam Hussein protectorate could be put in place in a matter of weeks if not days: some Iraqi officers (Baathist thugs, just like Hussein himself) willing to organize the kind of regime Washington had in mind would soon knock off Saddam Hussein. U.S. imperialism would be at a new pinnacle of power abroad. And the war party—that is, the bipartisan patriotic gang led by the Bush administration supporting the war effort—would be in a new position of strength at home.

When Washington claimed its military "victory" over the Iraqi armed forces at the end of February, the U.S. rulers initially acted as if they had taken a giant step toward furthering these objectives. On March 1 President George Bush gloated: "By God"—he meant by hook or by crook—"we've kicked the Vietnam syndrome once and for all!"...

But it took only a few days after the suspension of offensive operations in southern Iraq at the end of February for the initial patriotic euphoria to begin to turn sour. A political fiasco rapidly unfolded.

In the weeks that followed, more of the truth has come out about the "turkey shoot" and the "cockroach hunt," the broader U.S.-organized slaughter and devastation, and the consequences of the war for those who rose up in rebellion in Iraq. Questioning and revulsion have grown among working people in the United States, including returning GIs.

Apparently the officer corps and the politicians *did* lie once again about "the body count," that is, about the "collateral damage" in all its forms. It turns out the reviled Peter Arnett telecasting over CNN from Baghdad was telling a lot more of the truth than "Stormin' Norman," as Schwarzkopf is called. Or than "America's Black Eisenhower," as the ultraright *National Review* magazine glowingly dubbed Gen. Colin Powell in a front-page feature plumping him as a Republican Party candidate for president later in the '90s. "Trust me"? Yes. To try to "cut off and kill" any rebelling victim of imperialism you're ordered to—at home as well as abroad.

Baghdad's massacres of Shiite and Kurdish rebels and the uprooting of massive new refugee populations is shattering the illusion that Washington's war somehow contributed to the welfare of oppressed

peoples anywhere in the region. Reports from Kuwait of the reinstalled al-Sabah monarchy's tyranny, opulent corruption, and gratuitous brutality—after their display of such craven physical cowardice—elicit disgust....

Washington's war has actually created new problems for American imperialism in the Gulf region. It has set in motion unforeseen and uncontrollable social forces. It has opened up new conflicts and struggles. It has set off new flows of displaced populations. All this was virtually inevitable, since world capitalism at its current stage of crisis and decline is incapable of bringing economic development—and thus meaningful national independence, sovereignty, or social stability—to these or other countries and peoples in the semi-colonial world.

This post-peace-fire reality set off sharp tactical divisions—more accurately, *recriminations*—in the U.S. capitalist class, as its spokespeople second-guessed the Bush administration's recent policy decisions in the Gulf. The administration's ruling-class detractors charge that by deciding to halt offensive operations at the end of February, lift some sanctions, agree to a cease-fire, and allow Baghdad to smash internal rebellions, Bush dropped the ball in the high-stakes drive to accomplish more of U.S. imperialism's political goals in the region. (Few of them, however, say what alternative course should, or could, have been pursued by the administration.)...

The war demonstrated once again that there is no "international community" under the aegis of world capitalism. Most importantly, it has driven home the fact that there *can be* a world community—if the exploited and oppressed worldwide remove the exploiters and oppressors, the war makers, from power.

For Further Reading

Opening Guns of World War III
Washington's Assault on Iraq

New International no. 7 by Jack Barnes
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Antiabortion killer convicted

Continued from front page

With a 12-gauge shotgun he opened fire at close range on Britton and volunteer escorts James and June Barrett as they arrived at The Ladies Center.

Hill's attorneys attempted to mount a "justifiable homicide" defense, arguing that the murders prevented a greater harm, in this case, "the killing of innocent babies." Judge Roger Vinson rejected this defense, noting that in many cases abortion is legal.

However, Vinson suggested to Hill that he argue the murders were justified to prevent abortions that were illegal as a result of improperly maintained equipment. The judge allowed Pensacola police to photograph equipment at the clinic for Hill's attorneys. Vinson also ordered the state to turn over fetal death certificates for the last two years in an attempt to show that viable fetuses were illegally aborted.

Clinic administrator Linda Taggart testified that equipment is properly maintained and that no abortions are performed after the first trimester. Hill eventually dismissed his lawyers, represented himself in court, and offered no defense.

Numerous leaders of antiabortion rights groups attended the trial. A priest picketed the courthouse with a sign reading "Free Paul Hill."

Donna Bray, director of Defenders of the Defenders of Life, told the press, "Now is the time for action. We need to act as though babies are being murdered every day."

Abortion rights activists have also responded to the crisis in Pensacola. Only one clinic staffer quit after the killings. Doctors continue to work. No clinic escorts have quit, and, in fact, Debbie Myers, a receptionist for Women's Medical Services where Dr. Gunn was murdered, reports that 50 additional people have called to volunteer at the clinics.

"I'm going to tell you — someone else is going to get killed and I'm still going to do it," said escort Richard Davison, a 51-year-old Pensacola public worker who has defended the clinics for four years.

Supporters of abortion rights from around the country have come to Pensacola to help defend the clinics. Many attended the Hill trial. In an October 5 news release, national leaders of NOW hailed the conviction and called for a federal conspiracy investigation of antiabortion forces. The release says the gathering of antiabortion leaders in Pensacola is proof of a "network of organized crime and violence at clinics nationwide." NOW calls for "more criminal convictions of anti-abortion conspirators all across the country, not just when a murder happens."

NOW and the Feminist Majority Foundation are working with local activists to pressure city officials to enact a clinic "buffer zone" ordinance. The Pensacola city council recently passed ordinances restricting residential picketing and noise near the clinics.

—CALENDAR—

MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge

The Cuban Revolution and 35 Years of Continuing U.S. Hostility. A Conference on the state of U.S.-Cuban relations. Speakers: Andrés Gomez, founding member of the Antonio Maceo Brigade and editor of *Areito* magazine; Miguel Núñez, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C.; Lucius Walker, director of IFCO; Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New International* magazine and editor of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*. Sat., Oct. 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Building 10, room 25. Sponsored by the July 26 Coalition and the *Thistle* newspaper at MIT. For more information, call (617) 492-8699.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Defend Cuba. Hear the Cuban Side. Speaker: Bernardo Toscano, third secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C. Fri., October 21, at University of Utah. Reception 6 p.m., Olpin Union, Room 275; press conference 7 p.m., Olpin Union, room 324; presentation 7:30 to 9 p.m., Olpin Union, room 323. Sponsored by the Coalition Against War With Cuba. For more information, call (801) 278-8447.

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CALIFORNIA

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Youth Speak Out Against Proposition 187. Panel discussion: Angel Cervantes, Californians United Against 187 and organizer of the October Student Movement; Elias Gabriel, International Ladies' Garment Workers Union Local 482; Olga Miranda, student activist; Michelle Schmidt, student, University of California, Santa Barbara; Ken Riley, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of California; others. Video: *Save the Children, Vote 'NO' on Proposition 187*. Sat., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Translation to Spanish. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

MICHIGAN
Detroit
What's Behind the Conflict in the Persian Gulf. Speaker: Steve Marshall, Socialist Workers Party, member of United Transportation Union. Sun., Oct. 23, 4 p.m. 7414 Woodward Ave. (a block and a half north of East Grand Blvd.) Donation \$4. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

Pathfinder Fund Rally: The Class Struggle Intensifies in South Africa. An Eyewitness Report. Speaker: James Harris, long-time activist in the United Auto Workers and participant in a recent *Militant* reporting team to South Africa. Sun., Oct. 30, 2 p.m. Brunch and reception 1 p.m. 7414 Woodward Avenue (a block and a half north of East Grand Blvd.) Donation \$10 for brunch and forum, \$5 for forum only. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

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Solidarity with Labor Battles Against Union Busting: A First-Hand Report from the Front Lines in Decatur, Illinois. Speakers: Tony Dutrow, Socialist Workers Party, member of the United Steelworkers of America. Sun., Oct. 23, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn. Ave. Donation \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Socialist Alternative for the 1994 Elections. Hear the socialist candidates: Greg McCartan for Virginia Senate, Sam Manuel for City Council Chair; Aaron Ruby for Mayor; Brad Downs for Delegate to Congress, and Margrethe Siem for City Council At-Large. Sat., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. 1802 Belmont Rd. NW (in Adams Morgan, near 18th and Columbia Rd.) Donation \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

U.S. occupation force tightens grip on Haiti

Continued from front page

control of the military to former classmate and the army's second-ranking officer, Gen. Jean-Claude Duvalier, who will now serve under Aristide.

Thousands of Haitians, surrounding the headquarters to express their hatred of the military and police force, jeered and drowned out Cédras's speech. They shouted, "Thief, criminal, murderer! Handcuff Cédras. Cédras your time is up." As Cédras's car departed, U.S. military cops held back a surging crowd, some of whom threw rocks and bottles.

Washington continues to face difficulty cobbling together a credible police force. An October 11 editorial in the *New York Times* nervously noted that Haitian workers and peasants jeered the first five members of the newly constituted Haitian police force in Cap-Haïtien as soon as they were identified as former members of the despised military. Their U.S. sponsors, after unsuccessful pleas to local residents, were forced to cancel the swearing-in of the cops. Much of the police force is demoralized. Former New York City police commissioner Raymond Kelly, assigned by the Clinton administration to assemble a Haitian police force, met for hours with some local cop commanders trying to persuade them to remain. A police training program has been started for Haitians detained at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.



U.S. troops patrolling the streets of Port-au-Prince.

Kelly seems well-qualified for his new job. From 1992 to January of this year, he was police commissioner of New York City, notorious for the daily brutality it metes out to working people.

According to the *Times*, Kelly's new job in reorganizing the police force will include leading 800 "monitors" who are to patrol with the Haitian cops on a daily basis.

U.S. troops police country

Meanwhile, U.S. troops are policing the country, conducting raids in search for weapons and not hesitating to arrest anyone they deem suspicious. In one incident in Port-au-Prince, U.S. soldiers arrested a

young man they accused of having a gun. As the soldiers forced him on his knees, handcuffed and blindfolded, a silent crowd gathered. After members of the crowd insisted the man was a security guard for a store in the area, he was released.

At the same time, violence by the paramilitary group Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH) continues. On October 9, a man identified as a FRAPH member drove a van into a pro-Aristide demonstration in the coastal town of Miragoâne, killing 14 people. This was the second such incident in three days. Six people were killed when gunmen

rammed a car into another pro-Aristide march on October 7. No U.S. troops were present on these occasions, according to residents.

Recent reports in the major U.S. media have confirmed that FRAPH chief Emmanuel Constant was a paid informer for the CIA from at least 1992 to 1994.

While the Clinton administration has vigorously denied providing aid or support to FRAPH thugs, the *New York Times* reported last year that leading figures within the paramilitary apparatus were on the CIA payroll. The Haitian intelligence agency, which is notorious for its drug-running operations and brutal repression, was also trained by U.S. forces.

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Christchurch: 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

An iffy question — "An issue that has come up frequently on Haiti is, 'How many [troops] and how long?' I cannot give a crisp, clear answer to that." — Defense Secretary William Perry.



Harry Ring

Really? — Corporate officials met with Nelson Mandela in Washington, but remain cautious about investing in South Africa, particularly in manufacturing

where unionized workers draw "relatively" high wages. "You can't help but be impressed by Mandela," one exec said. "But there has to be more than sympathy to this calculation."

Safety margin — The Oak Ridge, Tennessee, nuke plant, which disassembles atomic warheads, was shut down after the feds found hundreds of safety violations and the management, Martin Marietta, failed to correct them. The most serious violation was packing uranium parts too closely together, which could touch off a chain reaction. But, an official assured, two additional rules would have had to be broken to trigger the reaction.

A matter of values — The U.S. government spent \$311,039 of taxpayer money on the bigtime funeral for Richard Nixon, whose hands were drenched with the blood of countless Vietnamese, Cambodians, and more.

Sense of humor? — A *New York Times* report on the General Motors drive to wring greater output from fewer workers quoted a GM exec as declaring, "We're expecting our facilities to work harder than they ever have before." To fill a small space at the end of the article, the paper added a filler, "Job hunting? Check today's *Times*."

Role model — The U.S. Dept.

of Labor made a \$4 million settlement in a class-action discrimination suit by Black employees who were illegally denied promotions, demoted, or fired by the department's Employment and Training Administration.

User friendly — As a subcontractor on a McDonnell Douglas space project, IBM submitted bills totaling \$490 million. A federal audit found 20 percent of the IBM charges unjustified, including \$20 million for "renting" a building it already owned. Federal prosecutors say they're investigating.

Good — In Dallas, Texas, Mica England won a \$73,000 settlement of a lawsuit after the city police de-

nied her a job because she's a lesbian. She's now decided to become a chef instead of a cop.

Puff on this — A new how-to video, "The Art of Cigar Smoking," features "proper handling" of a cigar, as well as "lighting rituals." \$39.95 plus shipping.

Because they're as scarce as hen's teeth? — Wrongfully jailed on a phony prostitution charge, Yvonne Dotson is suing three San Francisco cops. She said she's experiencing nightmares and now has a terror of cops. "It's like I know there are some dedicated police officers," she explained. "But I have no way to tell who they are."

Innu Indians in Canada press for self-government

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO AND ROGER ANNIS

The Innu, a Native Indian people, are locked in a struggle in the territory of Labrador with the Canadian and Newfoundland governments over their right to self-government. Labrador is administered by the government of Newfoundland, Canada's easternmost province.

On September 19, more than 100 placard-carrying Innu stormed into a hall in Goose Bay, Labrador, and blocked the start of public hearings into a Canadian Defense Department proposal to expand low-level military training flights conducted out of the local air force base.

The department wants to increase the number of treetop training flights from 10,000 to 15,000 per year, and widen the training area by 30,000 square kilometers. Participating governments in addition to Canada include Britain, the Netherlands, and Germany. The flights began in 1979.

The Innu are opposed to them because the ear-shattering noise of the jet aircraft disrupts their hunting by scaring animal and fish life.

"We as Innu should sit where you are today because this is our land!" Innu spokesperson Armand Mackenzie told members of the panel as protesters occupied the meeting hall.

"I think you should be really embarrassed to sit here with a clear conscience," Daniel Ashini said. "You are being used by the Defense Department to try to convince the Canadian public that you are seriously conducting a full, fair hearing."

An angry confrontation took place later outside the hearing when several hundred employees at the air base came to oppose the Innu protest. They said Innu opposition to the training flights threatens several hundred jobs on the base.

"We want work and they want welfare," said one base employee.

Several days after the action, three environmental groups announced they were joining the protest in support of the Innu's demands. At a press conference in Ottawa on September 29, Innu protesters vowed that their fight would continue.

Struggle at Davis Inlet

At the remote Innu coastal community of Davis Inlet, 300 kilometers north of Goose Bay, the Innu are engaged in another sharp conflict.

The Newfoundland government an-

nounced on September 8 that it was calling off a police invasion of the community. The government had assembled 100 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in Goose Bay, a village of 500, in order to reimpose a criminal court and RCMP detachment that were kicked out by the Innu in December 1993.

The Innu say the court and police were imposed on them and systematically abuse their rights. Sentences were harsh and the convicted were forced to serve terms in far-away prisons. Adequate translation was not provided for the accused.

"We have our own way of healing, and this judge, the court system, just doesn't understand," explained then-chief Katie Rich in a news release following the decision to expel the court. "As more prison terms were handed out, we knew that it just couldn't go on. We would all be in jail, no one would heal," Rich said.

Government ultimatum

Negotiations to settle the conflict were broken off by the government in August. Newfoundland Justice Minister Ed Roberts then delivered a televised ultimatum to accept the reimposition of the court and cops or face large-scale police intervention.

In response, Innu staged demonstrations against the planned attack. They hoisted Canadian flags upside down and Newfoundland flags sideways.

The protesters appealed for support. Innu from other parts of Labrador traveled to Davis Inlet to join the defiant protest. Several lawyers from the Newfoundland capital of St. John's went to the community to act as human rights observers in the event of an invasion.

The RCMP closed the airspace around the community on September 4 to stop more supporters and journalists from flying in. Residents responded by blocking the airport runway. "If they won't allow the public to land here, nobody is going to land here," explained Davis Inlet Chief Simeon Tshakapash.

The government said it called off its intervention because it would be too dangerous. Military helicopters needed to carry the invading force could not land on the blocked runway, it said. Officials also cited the resistance which they anticipated from the population and its supporters.

Appalling living conditions

Davis Inlet exploded into news headlines across Canada in January of 1993 when an amateur video tape was broadcast on national television showing six Innu children refusing attempts to rescue them from freezing to death on a sub-zero arctic night. They were intoxicated from sniffing gasoline, a substance-abuse problem affecting many Native youth in Canada. The video showed them shouting to their rescuers "Leave us alone, we want to die!"

For several days after, extensive news coverage across Canada described the appalling health, social, and economic problems there.

The average income of the one million Native people in Canada is half the Canadian average. Unemployment is higher than 60 percent. Life expectancy is ten years below the national average and the suicide rate is six times higher. Many communities, including Davis Inlet, lack safe drinking water and sewage systems.

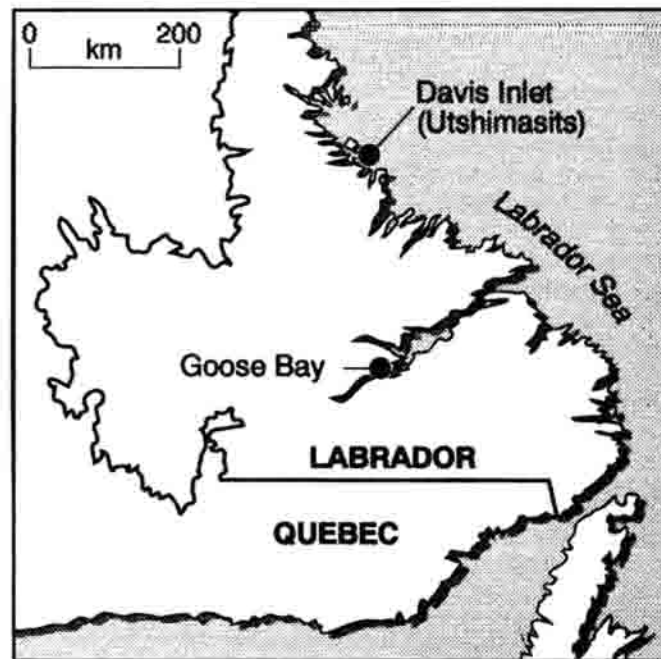
The Newfoundland and Canadian gov-

ernments responded by saying they would move rapidly to help the Innu deal with the crisis. That included a promise to help relocate the community to nearby Sango Bay on the Labrador mainland.

The Innu say the relocation is essential if they are to rebuild their shattered community. They were forcibly moved to Davis Inlet in 1967. The island location cut them off from hunting animals, their only independent source of food. The animals' fur is also a source of income.

But the promised help didn't come. And as punishment for the defiant stand the Innu took against the police and courts, government officials announced on September 9 they were calling off all further talks on land claims, health and social services, and relocation.

The Innu denounced the decision by the two governments to suspend talks. "We want to negotiate these issues, not have the outcome shoved down our throats by intimidation and threats by Canada and New-



foundland," said Innu Nation president Peter Penashue and Tshakapash in a letter released to the media.

Beverly Bernardo is a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Vancouver. Roger Annis is a member of Local 841 of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union in Montreal.

-25 AND 50 YEARS AGO-

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interest of the Working People
October 24, 1969 Price 10¢

FAYETTEVILLE, North Carolina — More than 600 demonstrators led by over 75 GIs marched here Oct. 11 in support of GI rights and in opposition to the Vietnam war. The demonstration was organized by GIs themselves — members of the Ft. Bragg GIs United Against the War. Leading the march in addition to GIs from Ft. Bragg, were enlisted men from Ft. Meade, Maryland, and Pope Air Force Base.

They were followed by students from nine colleges including Duke; North Carolina State, Raleigh; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; St. Andrew's College; Pembroke; Fayetteville State; East Carolina University; Methodist College and John Hopkins University. In addition, there were contingents from the Fayetteville Area Poor People's Organization and two women's liberation groups.

During the Fayetteville march there were no attempts to disrupt the rally and very few hostile remarks. Bragg enlisted men passing in cars responded with "V" signs and clenched fists.

As demonstrators ended the march the feeling was expressed that a new phenomenon had taken place — American GIs had planned and successfully carried off a legal, peaceful antiwar demonstration. NBC evening news noted it was the GIs who recruited the civilians to join them in the protest rather than the other way around.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

October 21, 1944

With the approval of Washington and the counter-revolutionary Stalinist gang in Moscow, the British imperialists are moving armed forces into Greece to crush the insurrectionary Greek workers and install in Athens the rotten Greek government-in-exile as the guardian of capitalist property.

Events in Greece provide one of the clearest demonstrations thus far of the reactionary purposes animating the policies of the Allied imperialists. Last week the Greek masses rose and seized Athens and Piraeus as Nazi forces began evacuating the country.

Partisan forces in other towns and innumerable villages likewise rose and took control. Nowhere did they have difficulty in overcoming resistance by the retreating Nazis and their Greek collaborators.

The character of the British intervention has already been made transparently clear by a single incident in Patras, where a quelling Security Battalion, organized during the Nazi occupation, surrendered to British forces by prior arrangement with the British commander.

As the *N.Y. Times* reported, the armed gangsters who had been doing the bidding of the Nazis were "seeking not so much freedom from the Germans as safety from the Elsas-Eam partisan forces." British troops thus appear on the scene as protectors of the fascist scum against the wrath of the people. Their actions cancel out their hypocritical declaration that they came to help liberate the country from the Nazis and their Greek henchmen.

FROM PATHFINDER

Genocide Against the Indians by George Novack

"The conflict between the red man and the white man is usually represented as essentially racial in character. But their war to the death was at bottom a social struggle," Novack explains. The scramble for wealth was at its root. In this case, the chief prize was individual ownership of the land. Booklet. \$3.00



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. If ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover postage and handling.

Washington hands off Iraq!

Continued from front page

president and that the use of massive military power is becoming a regular feature of his administration's foreign policy.

In August, the White House unleashed a chain of bellicose moves against Cuba, the most provocative of which was the detention of tens of thousands of Cubans at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, raising tensions at one of the most militarized borders in the world. In September, the White House ordered 20,000 troops to invade and occupy Haiti, allegedly to restore "democracy" but in reality to try to establish a stable capitalist regime, which inevitably means cracking down on Haitian workers and farmers who are fighting for basic democratic and social rights. The deployment of U.S. troops in Haiti is also a dagger aimed at nearby Cuba.

The moves against Cuba and Haiti received support from Democratic and Republican politicians alike. Now, with virtually unanimous big-business support, the White House has dispatched a huge force to the Persian Gulf and threatened a military assault on Iraq.

The war moves against Iraq have nothing to do with defending democracy in Kuwait or anywhere else. They are about defending the economic and political interests of the U.S. capitalist class vis-à-vis its imperialist rivals and other governments in the Middle East, a region that produces some 65 percent of the world's oil. They are the same reasons the U.S. government waged a brutal war against Iraq more than three years ago.

The carnage unleashed by the U.S. imperial rulers in Iraq was among the most horrific in modern history. For six weeks in 1991 U.S. planes bombed Iraqi cities, killing both soldiers and civilians and reducing much of a modern city to rubble. All told, more than 88,000 tons of bombs were dropped. Tens of thousands died just in the final 48 hours of the U.S. invasion as Iraqi soldiers, attempting to surrender, fled Kuwait along the road to Basra. In what became known as the "turkey shoot," the U.S. generals ordered that both ends of the highway be sealed off and then systematically slaughtered every human being there.

That brutality has continued to this day through a despicable economic embargo that has led to the deaths of more than 100,000 Iraqi children. Food, medicine, clean drinking water, and other basic necessities are in short supply. A Harvard study team noted in early 1993 that the 40 tons of depleted uranium shells left behind by U.S. forces "may

be the cause of fatal illnesses including cancer and mysterious new stomach ailments, showing up in Iraqi children."

In spite of this brutal show of military force, the U.S. rulers broke their teeth on the 1991 Gulf War. They failed in their goal of ousting Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and installing in Baghdad a regime more subservient to the interests of U.S. imperialism. Instead of heralding a much-touted New World Order, the war exacerbated all the conflicts among the imperialist governments and the instability in the region.

The current confrontation is further evidence that Washington has not been and will never again be able to piece together the coalition that waged war against Iraq last time. Driven by the continuing decline of their profit rates, the various national ruling classes — from Washington to Bonn — pursue their own interests, putting them increasingly in conflict with each other. Paris, for example, objects to U.S. government plans to establish a so-called exclusionary zone in southern Iraq, while pursuing lucrative business deals in Iraq. Other European companies are busy negotiating weapons sales to Iraq.

The Iraqi war set in motion further uncontrolled forces in the region. Even as its warships head towards Iraq today, the U.S. rulers find themselves relying on Saddam Hussein's capitalist regime to suppress potential uprisings of Shiite Muslims in southern Iraq and keep the Iranian rulers — one of the few victors in the Gulf war — at bay.

The U.S. rulers' war moves against the people of Iraq, like their attacks on the Cuban revolution and the occupation of Haiti, are an integral part of the same offensive they are waging against working people at home. The crimes Washington unleashed against the Iraqi people in the previous Gulf War, their threat to inflict more bombings and destruction, and the continuing attempt to literally starve Iraq into submission offer a preview of what they will be willing to do workers, farmers, and fighting youth in this country as they try to defend their profits.

Working people have no interest in supporting this war for big business. On the contrary, our interest lies in standing together with fellow workers and farmers — in Iraq and elsewhere — to oppose the warlords in Washington. We should demand an immediate end to the embargo against Iraq. U.S. troops must get out of the Persian Gulf and out of Haiti. Stop Washington's aggression against Iraq!

All out to build November 12 march

The November 12 demonstration in Washington, D.C., is an important opportunity to mobilize opposition to the unremitting campaign by the U.S. government against Cuba.

All those who want to act in defense of Cuba's independence and sovereignty and join the fight to defend the socialist revolution in Cuba and the example it provides to the world's toilers can reach out to encourage students, unionists, youth, and fellow fighters to build the march.

The reasons why the Cuban people have earned the hatred of Washington and the super-rich minority in the United States have been borne out once again over the past few months. Faced with an escalation of military, political, and economic threats by Washington since August, Cuban youth and working people mobilized in their hundreds of thousands to defend their revolution. This determination was summed up by Cuban foreign minister Roberto Robaina at the United Nations when he said, "Our sovereignty, independence, and the socialism we freely chose will never be a bargaining chip."

Faced with tremendous economic difficulties, the overwhelming majority of working people in Cuba continue to defend the socialist revolution they made more than 30 years ago. They refuse to be forced back into the semi-servitude still endured by hundreds of millions of working people around the world. The Cuban government spoke for millions of Cubans when it condemned the U.S. military occupation of Haiti for what it is — an imperialist violation of the rights of the Haitian people, rejecting the phony "humanitarian" and "democratic" cover peddled by the White House.

Building the November 12 demonstration is among the best ways to counter Washington's lies and slanders against the Cuban revolution and to get out the truth about the reasons for and consequences of U.S. policy. In addition,

the demonstration provides a way for all who seek to protest new U.S. war moves against the people of Iraq and the military occupation of Haiti to speak out and show their public opposition to U.S. president Bill Clinton's actions.

Mobilizing to demand an end to the U.S. embargo, normalization of relations with Cuba, an end to the travel ban, and for the U.S. to get out of Haiti and the naval base in Guantánamo is not only objectively in the interests of the Cuban people. Doing so also aids workers involved in strikes and other struggles against the employers and their government in the United States and around the world.

Just as the labor movement must chart a course to combat the domestic consequences of the offensive by the government and the employers against our rights, wages, working conditions, and social wage, so too must it break from support to the foreign policy of the Democrats and Republicans.

Charting a course of working-class solidarity with the struggles of fellow toilers around the world will strengthen much-needed solidarity among those in struggle from Caterpillar strikers to those defending abortion clinics today. Learning the truth about the Cuban revolution will aid unionists and others seeking a road forward for the labor movement.

Supporters of the Cuban revolution should place building the November 12 demonstration at the center of their activities over the next month. High school and college students, fighting unionists, working farmers, and others can be won to turn out in Washington, D.C. to demand:

U.S. Hands off Cuba!
Lift the brutal economic and information embargo!
End the travel ban!
Normalize relations with Cuba! U.S. out of Haiti and Guantánamo now!

Stakes for labor in Caterpillar strike

Continued from page 4

member with 25 years seniority was laid off from the York, Pennsylvania, parts warehouse in 1991 and recalled to an \$8.50 an hour temporary job with no benefits — a cut in pay of 40 percent to 60 percent.

After expressing initial nervousness that Caterpillar's aggressive attack on the UAW would spark a fightback that could hurt an already booming company, there is a recent mood swing in the big-business press. A spate of recent articles voice optimism that Caterpillar can emerge from the fight as the winner.

"No other major manufacturer in such good health as Caterpillar has waged such a battle with a union. Nor has any other company mounted such an attempt in recent years to run its plants during a strike," reported the *Chicago Tribune*.

A lead article in the front page of the October 4 *Wall Street Journal* was titled "UAW's Long Strike Fails to Crimp Output at Caterpillar; Defectors, New Hires, Temps, and Office Workers Help Firm and Its Customers; Overseas Plants Produce More."

The *Peoria Journal Star* reprinted the article on the front-page of its Sunday edition October 6, and praised it highly. Caterpillar seized on the article and mailed it out to strikers in another attempt to demoralize them.

The *Wall Street Journal* article began, "For two days last month, two newly assembled excavators symbolized Caterpillar Inc.'s drive to crank out products during the United Auto Workers' long-running strike. High over the factory entrance road, the huge excavators' hydraulic arms were linked like those of a triumphant boxer. A banner between them proclaimed, 'Celebrating our 1,000th machine built' since the strike began on June 21." The article repeated company assertions that "4,000 of the 13,400 UAW members have crossed, a startling number for a union that has long commanded discipline."

The *Journal* article stated, "Although some factories are doing better than others, James Owens, Cat's chief financial officer, said yesterday that three of the company's four main assembly plants in Illinois are now producing daily rates that are 7% to 10% above pre-strike levels."

However, John Starks, an industry analyst in Chicago who relies on internal sources at Caterpillar challenges the company's boasts and reports that production is lower by as much as 50 percent in Decatur, Illinois, and 30 percent in East Peoria, Illinois, compared to pre-strike levels.

"We have no control over the lies Caterpillar tells, but we can try to get out the truth," argued Jon Grayned, a Decatur striker. "We could not make production, when we were in there. What production goals are they referring to?"

At the Caterpillar plant in Decatur motor graders, tractor scrapers, and mining vehicle centers are the main products. Grayned reports that at Suballiance, a nonunion plant where Caterpillar has sub-contracted its work, the storage lot is full of cowl assemblies. "Every motor grader must have one of these so how many motor graders can they be shipping? Or are they just shipping without them?"

Most strikers remain determined

"The federal government put out a report last week that there are less people applying for unemployment but more people living below the poverty line," said Grayned. "We have about 90 union people who have crossed here, but we have over 1,800 who have not. The big majority of us are not short-sighted. Our strike is a fight to bring up the quality of life in Decatur, to make all the bosses, including the non-union bosses tow the line."

Many strikers point to the October 15 rally in Decatur in solidarity with strikers at Firestone and Caterpillar and workers locked out by A.E. Staley as an important opportunity to build badly-needed support among the working class for their fight.

Caterpillar strikers in Peoria are organizing a car caravan from the UAW Local 974 parking lot to the Decatur rally. "We'll be there. We're going to Decatur to show our solidarity," said Dee Knapp, of Families In Solidarity, who is also a laid-off member of Local 974. The October 15 rally is also being built by the Workers Solidarity and Education Coalition, which meets weekly in Decatur.

"We started with 5-6 people, but now we are up to 40 — every week — from AIW [Allied Industrial Workers], UAW, UPIU [United Paperworkers International Union], URW [United Rubber Workers] as well as the IBEW [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers], Decatur Teachers Association, AFSCME [American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees] and the building trades," said Lloyd Holman, a member of the coalition and an activist in the United Transportation Union. Rail unionists helped to get the coalition started.

"First and foremost," Holman stated, "October 15 is important not just to draw solidarity from the labor movement in this area, but from the labor movement across the country. We want to win national notoriety. We can show we are not isolated."

Striking rubber workers remain united

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions. We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important

or leaving it." According to the *Des Moines Register*, "company lawyers asked that union member Dale A. Hopkins and union representatives be ordered to show cause why they shouldn't be held in

ON THE PICKET LINE

struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Members of United Rubber Workers (URW) Local 310, on strike against Bridgestone/Firestone in Des Moines, Iowa, since July 12, are holding firm. Not a single member of the local has crossed the picket line. No talks have taken place and none are scheduled.

Striking workers report the bosses are having a difficult time recruiting scabs. Their latest ploy is to pay supervisors \$500 bonuses for any family member or friend they bring into the plant who stays on the job for six months.

The company claims that production is up to 25 percent of the prestrike level. But strikers point to the small number of trucks entering and leaving the plant, the small number of scabs working, and the inexperience of the management personnel enlisted to do production work as evidence that production is half that amount.

On September 23, in a new attack on the union, the company filed papers accusing some URW Local 310 members of violating a temporary court injunction that prohibits "hindering access to the plant or harassing anyone entering

contempt of court and punished." The company accused Hopkins of using threatening language, and harassing Bridgestone/Firestone employees as they left the plant September 21. The company backed off the contempt of court action in the last days before the September 30 hearing on the issue.

As the strike entered its 12th week at the end of September, the rubber workers were still organizing picket lines at five gates into the plant. Passersby often honk and gesture their solidarity.

Teamsters end walkout at Pony Express

Pony Express, a package-delivery company based in Charlotte, North Carolina, is refusing to allow all workers to return to work. Members of the Teamsters union unconditionally ended their six-week strike September 19. In addition, Pony Express driver Kurtis Gray and Teamsters organizer Wayne Vicks in Atlanta report that the company is forcing other workers into different routes.

Although unsuccessful at this stage, the strike was "definitely

worthwhile because we took a stand," Gray said.

The union plans to continue to demand a contract through so-called corporate campaign tactics against Pony Express's parent company, Borg Warner. A caravan of former strikers will travel around the country to carry out the campaign. Meanwhile, Pony Express intends to all the scabs hired during the strike.

Rubber workers face court injunctions

Rubber workers on strike against the Yokohama Tire Company in Salem, Virginia, have organized picket lines of more than

300. Only 11 out of more than 760 workers have broken ranks and returned to work.

In a recent attack on the union, a local judge accused picketers of being an "unruly mob," and slapped an injunction on the union that limits pickets to four per gate and bars other strikers and supporters from congregating within 500 yards of the premises.

"We couldn't even go to the Civic Center to hold our meetings," URW Local 1023 president Wayne Friend said. The union has since won the right to meet at the Civic Center. Yokohama wants to intensify a two-tier wage system implemented in 1991 and is demanding increases in medical co-

payments and deductibles. The bosses want to force newer employees to work weekends and holidays, allowing the plant to operate seven days a week. The company is also seeking to expand the use of temporary workers and raise production quotas.

Contributors to this week's column include: José Alvarado, a member of International Association of Machinists Local 254 in Des Moines, Iowa; Robert Dees, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) in Greensboro, North Carolina; and Susan LaMont, a member of ACTWU Local 365 in Austell, Georgia.



Striking oil workers rally September 10 in St. John, New Brunswick. Members of Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada are fighting Irving Oil's attempt to expand hours and weaken the union. Longer hours will mean the loss of 30 jobs at the refinery. Workers struck May 12.

LETTERS

Cuba comes to life

Thanks to the effort of the Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC) the message about Cuba's current crisis is being felt as well as heard. Seven International Association of Machinists members from Local 2113 at Ford Electronics in Canada recently had the opportunity to meet with Augustín López Gómez, general secretary of the Communication Workers Union; and Manuel Montero Bistilleiro from the CTC Foreign Affairs Department, over an informal breakfast at a restaurant near the plant.

We were able to meet face to face with these Cuban union members to discuss Cuba's plight and to ask poignant questions about the effects of the U.S. trade embargo. This was an excellent opportunity to hear first hand about the impact on the Cuban population; why the embargo exists; and why many Cubans are leaving.

For a moment I felt a part of the struggle. I smelled the rotting produce that lay waiting in the fields for transport trucks that won't come to distribute it for lack of fuel. I tried to read by candle light without fuel for electricity for lights. I went home with no work due to material and power shortages. I craved a clean piece of paper on which to write. I stood and shook my fist at the American flag and shouted "Viva Cuba." I felt for a moment the pride of fighting for one's rights in the face of overwhelming oppression.

Through their words and in their actions of selfless devotion, spreading the word of Cuba through an exhausting schedule, their visit helped inform and educate us all — typifying the will and power of Cuba's people.
D. Ozarko
Toronto, Ontario

Cover election campaigns

I hope that the *Militant* will be covering SWP candidates and the effort to achieve status on the state's ballot for the November elections in New York state.
C.M.
Fairport, New York

Women as victims

Matilde Zimmermann's September 12 "As I See It" column on the recent Supreme Court ruling on the East Stroudsburg date rape case made some very important points. The woman who pressed charges against Robert Berkowitz in the case acknowledged that he did not use threats or physical force in any way and that she made no concerted effort to get up or walk away during the incident.

Unfortunately, the woman was faithfully following what university counselors advised: "If you are being raped, say 'no' and don't fight, or you could wind up dead."

The merits of that aside, students are taught at freshman seminars that "any unwanted sexual advances" constitute rape and that the correct response to all scenarios is "submit and live." If that is indeed the criteria, many women must feel violated every time they walk out into the world.

Not only does this attitude poison and cloud relations between men and women, but, as Zimmermann says, it trivializes a truly brutal act of violence against women. And, as she writes, this attitude would make women into victims, incapable in most situations of assessing the circumstances, trusting their own judgment, and acting decisively one way or the other.

I recently read Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Right*

of Woman, published in 1792.

It's striking how similar her basic contention is to what we need to reassert and reconquer today in the face of those who would tell us what we "felt" or "experienced" in a given situation: women do not live in a state of perpetual childhood and we can and must take the lead in shaping our lives.
Marty Michaels
Washington, D.C.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary

they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

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California initiative fuels bipartisan drive against rights of immigrants

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — As both Democratic and Republican politicians call for more attacks on the rights of immigrants, attention has focused on an anti-immigrant legislative proposal, called Proposition 187, which will be on the ballot in the November 8 elections in California.

If approved by voters, Proposition 187 would revise state law to deny those deemed to be here illegally such basic rights as education, health care and social services.

Public school pupils would be required to establish that they are citizens or legal residents. Even if the children are U.S. citizens, they would have to furnish proof that their parents are legal residents too. Undocumented children would be barred from school and school officials would be required to report students or parents suspected of not having papers.

Public hospitals and clinics would be required to deny all but limited emergency services to those who cannot show papers. The few social services not already denied to the undocumented would also be cut off — aid to the elderly, the blind, and others. Police agencies would be required to notify the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) of anyone arrested who is "suspected" of not being here legally.

Use of illegal identity papers would be classified as a felony, with stiffer penalties than those now in effect.

The drive to defeat Proposition 187 includes an array of forces — many Chicano and other Latino groups, a significant number of Asian-American organizations, a number of unions, and groups of college and high school students. These forces have been building an October 16 demonstration in Los Angeles against the proposed measure and other anti-immigrant attacks.

Initiated by right-wing forces, Proposition 187, demagogically dubbed "Save Our State" (SOS) by its sponsors, has the support of prominent big-business figures such as California governor Pete Wilson.

Two of the principal promoters of 187 are Harold Ezell and Alan Nelson, former INS officials who coauthored the proposition. Nelson was chief of the service, and Ezell is former western regional head. They are also working to initiate similar measures in other states.



Opponents of anti-immigrant campaign march in Los Angeles in May. Republicans and Democrats scapegoat immigrants for ills caused by crisis of the profit system.

Major financial contributors to SOS include Richard Mountjoy, an Orange County Republican member of the state assembly. He has a bill pending that would deny constitutionally guaranteed citizenship to children born in the United States if their mother is undocumented. Another backer is Don Rogers, a state senator from the Palm Springs area who is associated with the ultrarightist Christian Identity and the Aryan Nation. The SOS drive also has the support of the rightist Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR).

Republican governor Wilson, who has made immigrant bashing a central focus of his reelection bid, has embraced Proposition 187. He has said that if it were up to him, he would deport all undocumented schoolchildren and their parents. Many of his campaign ads show scenes of undocumented workers crossing the border and an announcer ominously intoning, "They keep coming."

While the state Democratic Party and most of its candidates say they favor a "no" vote on 187, they argue primarily that the initiative will not prove "effective" in curbing immigrant rights. Instead, they favor a police crackdown at the border.

Kathleen Brown, Democratic candidate

for governor, favors a "no" vote on 187. But she has joined the anti-immigrant campaign too. Early on in her campaign, she plumped for Washington issuing tamper-proof ID cards that would make it harder for undocumented workers to get jobs. She also advocates stiffer penalties against employers who hire the undocumented. And she endorses the proposal to use U.S. troops to back up the border cops.

"What we really need," Brown said recently, "is for the Federal Government to properly police our border and enforce laws already on the books."

Dianne Feinstein, Democratic candidate for U.S. senator, wrote a piece for the *Los Angeles Times* at the outset of her campaign. It was entitled, "Perspective on illegal immigration: We can get a grip on our borders." For openers, Feinstein declares: "Today there are 1.3 million Californians out of work... Meanwhile, there are 1.3 million undocumented immigrants in California." The message is unmistakable.

Feinstein repeats the standard litany of false charges against the undocumented, blaming them for overcrowded schools, the housing shortage, and crime. She adds: "These hard facts could lead, I fear, to a backlash against all immigrants if strong

and prudent federal policies to protect our borders are not put in place."

This is classic scapegoating of immigrants — claiming they are responsible for the lack of jobs, not the auto, aircraft, and steel barons who have slashed payrolls and shut down plants; that immigrants are responsible for overcrowded classrooms, not the officials who stubbornly refuse to build the necessary schools.

According to one news account, Feinstein "has even indicated that she may support SOS." Many of the Democratic Party forces that oppose 187 are using the same reactionary arguments to justify their position. The approach was summed up by Richard Woodward, a hired consultant for Taxpayers United Against 187. He says: "If we're trying to solve illegal immigration, where do you do it? At the border. With this 187, there will not be one more Border Patrol person."

Some of these Democratic Party forces have not only refused to endorse the October 16 march but have pressured behind the scenes to sabotage it. One unnamed "immigrant rights advocate" told the *Los Angeles Times*, "The last thing we need is a sense that L.A. is truly overrun by all these immigrants," referring to the expected turnout at the demonstration.

The only voice in the election campaign to oppose the anti-immigrant drive is that of the Socialist Workers candidates. Ken Riley, a garment worker here and socialist candidate for governor, declared, "This scapegoating is aimed at dividing working people and creating a superexploited layer of the working class with no rights." Thus, he added, "the rights and standard of living of all workers can be driven down."

Riley noted that employers and their politicians have whipped up an anti-immigrant campaign in all imperialist countries to divert workers from the real cause of the worldwide economic crisis. "But it is capitalism, a system based on competition and exploitation of labor, that is responsible for the social crisis we face."

Pointing out that the influx of immigrants into the U.S. working class is a source of strength for the labor movement, he called for "equal rights for all immigrants, including the right to vote and that the borders be opened so that working people can live and work where they choose."

Youth march for democratic rights in Belfast

BY CELIA PUGH

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Some 200 young people marched through the city center here October 8 chanting, "Criminal Justice Bill, no way! Our rights are here to stay!" Young workers joined college students and other youth to protest the proposed legislation under debate in the British Parliament.

Richie Browe, an Aer Lingus airline worker, told the demonstrators how many of the bill's measures already exist in the north and south of Ireland. "We have a Public Order Act that they told us was to deal with people like muggers. But this year we were locked out by Aer Lingus for taking action to defend our pay and jobs. We were told that we would be arrested under the Public Order Act if we organized demonstrations and sit-ins around the airport."

"It's great to see young people on the streets fighting for our rights," commented Sean Garland, a member of the Young Socialists here.

London marchers denounce crime bill

BY GAETON WHISTON

LONDON — Tens of thousands marched through the streets of this city October 9 to protest the Criminal Justice Bill being debated in the British Parliament. The legislation has been described by the *Manchester Guardian* as "the most serious peacetime curbs on freedom this century."

"I'm here because this bill frightens the hell out of me," said Caroline Grundy, a young law student, who remarked that one of the most reactionary measures was the proposed lowering of the age of prosecution to 10 years old.

If passed into law, the bill will remove an arrested suspect's right to silence and establish a new crime of "aggravated trespass." This has been so widely defined that it will give police the ability to ban any outdoor gathering of 10 people or more by declaring it "an assembly of aggravated trespassers."

Refusal to leave will be an arrestable offense carrying up to three months in prison or fines of £2,500 (£1-US \$1.50).

These measures would apply to striking workers picketing a plant and people living in vehicles trying to make camp, as well as to those engaged in political protest ac-

tions.

Police powers to operate without warrants across borders between England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland will be extended if the bill is passed. Officers from one country will be able to arrest suspects in another and transport them back to a police station near the scene of the alleged crime where a different legal system applies.

Increased police powers

Many demonstrators came out to oppose granting police the power to close down "raves" — large outdoor parties that are popular particularly in rural areas — even when these are held on land that has been leased from the landowner.

Cops would be authorized to seize equipment and vehicles belonging to those attending. Several clauses in the bill specifically address "raves."

Other measures contained in the bill will mean that homeless workers living in the 864,000 empty properties in Britain can be evicted after 24 hours notice. Currently, squatting in a property is not a criminal offense as long as the residence has not been broken into. Anyone not leaving after 24

hours can be sentenced to six months in prison or a £5,000 fine.

"I'm here because of the squatting thing," said Mark Hunter who had just finished a course in photography. "I've been squatting for seven years already. As a student you get a grant of £2,800 a year to live on and you can't afford to pay £70 per week rent." He said the new measures would mean "we will not have any rights."

After the rally in Hyde Park, riot police — including 30 on horseback — attacked demonstrators. Thirty-eight protesters were injured, including one reporter, and 39 arrested. Organizers of the march condemned the provocative behavior of the police who sealed off exits from the park just as thousands of marchers were making their way back to their buses to get home.

The big-business media, in an attempt to divert attention from the breadth of the demonstration, has concentrated on the allegation that around 50 protesters attacked shops and the police.

They argue that the violence that the cops instigated actually illustrates why the police need the powers enshrined in the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act.